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Arab-Israeli Talks

Middle East Disarmament Talks Open in Washington

Egyptian Delegation Arrives

NC1705162293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1437 GMT 17 May 93

[Excerpt] Washington, 17 May (MENA)—Egypt will take part in the meetings of the Disarmament Committee emanating from the Middle East peace talks, which will open tomorrow, 18 May, in Washington. The committee will look into arms limitation and removal [of weapons of mass destruction] from the Middle East. An Egyptian delegation, led by Counselor Nabil Fahmi, arrived in Washington yesterday, to participate in the meetings.

It has been learned that the delegation will present a number of points during the talks concerning ways to curb the Middle East arms race and remove weapons of mass destruction—nuclear, biological, chemical—from the region. [passage omitted]

Talks Begin

TA1805173793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] The Middle East multilateral talks on regional security and arms control have opened in Washington. Among the 21 countries participating in the deliberations, are the Palestinians, who are being represented for the first time. With the opening of the talks, our correspondent Arye Golan interviewed David 'Ivri, Defense Ministry director general and head of the Israeli delegation.

[Begin recording] ['Ivri] It has been about eight months since the Moscow meeting, which was quite good. Many preparations have been made during that time together with the serious efforts invested by the cosponsors—the United States and Russia. The main issues being raised are confidence-building measures and our visions of the long-term future. We hope the proposals will be approved by the forum. We have definitely come up with a constructive approach in order to advance matters, and I hope that is what will happen.

[Golan] You still hope that despite the fact that the ninth round of bilateral talks ended in failure late last week?

['Ivri] I cannot refer to the bilateral talks because I am not adequately informed about them. I hope there will be two separate tracks although I am sure that they cannot be totally separated. I think the preparations will give us a chance to make progress.

[Golan] Can you tell us in more detail where progress can be made and what differences, if any, exist?

['Ivri] No, it is too early to talk about that. That is why we are attending the talks.

[Golan] Is there proper coordination with the Americans?

['Ivri] There is coordination with everybody. We are working hard to coordinate with all the groups, and to prepare things in such a way that the talks will be effective.

[Golan] One last question, what do you think of Egypt's demand that Israel must first commit itself to getting rid of its nuclear weapons before there are any further deliberations on disarmament.

['Ivri] I do not think that is the point, because what we are trying to do is to find areas of cooperation and a consensus in the region, and not to jump further ahead.

[Golan] And that is possible?

['Ivri] That is what everybody, not only we, are trying to achieve. [end recording]

Israeli Proposals Detailed

TA1805175693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Israel will propose to the Arab states a series of security and military measures aimed at building mutual confidence and preventing a deteriorating security situation stemming from misunderstanding. Israel will also propose the exchange of information prior to staged military maneuvers and exercises. Our political affairs correspondent Shlomo Ganor reports that these proposals will be presented by the Israeli delegation to the multilateral talks arms control negotiations, which are to begin today in Washington. Moreover, Israel will propose that the Middle East region be declared a nuclear-free zone after peace agreements are reached between the Arab states and Israel.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Damascus Declaration Foreign Ministers Meet in Qatar

Aid to Syria, Egypt Discussed

NC1805180593 Paris AFP in English 1746 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Doha, May 18 (AFP)—Finance ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) plus Egypt and Syria meeting here Tuesday were at odds over a 10 billion dollar aid program to Cairo and Damascus, conference sources said.

"No decision has been made about the aid program and the discussions will continue through the night," a participant told AFP before the afternoon session of the day-long meeting grouping the finance ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries.

Signed in March 1991, the declaration calls for multi-faceted cooperation between the GCC states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar as well as Egypt and Syria but it has never been implemented.

On economic cooperation, the GCC states had proposed a 10-billion dollar aid program over a ten-year period to

benefit Arab countries adversely affected by the Gulf war, notably Egypt and Syria, the key Arab partners in the U.S.-led anti-Iraq coalition.

But the six Gulf states have disagreed over their contributions to the fund, leading to a call for a redefinition of the program and creation of a cooperation mechanism requiring the co-financing of development projects in Egypt and Syria.

"This mechanism must be applied to all the Arab countries, not only Egypt and Syria," a conference source who declined to be identified told AFP, adding that the Damascus Declaration was conceived as a framework to launch joint Arab action on new foundations.

"Arab cooperation must go through the bolstering of commercial exchanges and the financing of economic projects in the Arab world, notably via national development funds existing in the Gulf," he said.

The finance ministers are to submit a report to their countries' foreign ministers before they, in turn, meet on June 12 in Abu Dhabi.

Meeting Ends

JN1905073693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 19 May 93

[Text] Doha—Finance and economy ministers of the Damascus Declaration states concluded their first meeting yesterday evening in the Qatari capital, Doha.

Following the meeting, Kuwaiti Finance and Planning Minister Nasir al-Ridan said the ministers discussed the economic aspect of the Damascus Declaration, which is made up of six major points. These relate to trade, joint ventures, promoting the pioneering role of the private sector in socioeconomic development, in addition to opening channels of communication between the private sector agencies, and enhancing agricultural, industrial, and economic cooperation.

He added that they also discussed encouraging member states of the Damascus Declaration to engage in joint ventures. This is besides the Gulf countries' own program to promote development efforts in Arab states, which he defined as the states which are now members of the Damascus Declaration.

Al-Ridan said the ministers made several recommendations and will refer them to the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states.

No Agreement Reached on Aid

NC1905073793 Paris AFP in English 0714 GMT 19 May 93

[Text] Doha, May 19 (AFP)—The finance ministers of the six Gulf Arab monarchies, Egypt and Syria failed to reach agreement on a 10-billion dollar aid program to Cairo and Damascus at the end of talks Tuesday in Qatar.

But the secretary general of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Fahim al-Qasimi, said discussions were still underway between Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates on the aid program.

At the end of the Gulf war in 1991 the six nations signed with Egypt and Syria the so-called Damascus Declaration, to set up security arrangements in the Gulf and stipulating financial aid to Cairo and Damascus.

The agreement has never been implemented.

"The program was conceived to promote development in all the Arab countries, including Syria and Egypt," which took part in a U.S.-led coalition ending Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait in February 1991, al-Qasimi said.

Egypt and Syria submitted six development projects at the Doha meeting which need financing, he said.

Kuwaiti Finance Minister 'Abdallah Nasir al-Ridan said the projects, which mainly deal with hydraulic and power development, would be examined by the GCC states before any decision is taken.

Sources close to the GCC said the Gulf Arab monarchies were willing to finance economic projects in the Arab countries in line with their "economic feasibility as well as criteria on the international financial market."

The 10-year aid program was aimed to benefit Arab countries adversely affected by the Gulf war.

But the six Gulf states have disagreed over their contributions to the fund, leading to a call for a redefinition of the program and creation of a cooperation mechanism requiring the co-financing of development projects in Egypt and Syria.

"This mechanism must be applied to all the Arab countries, not only Egypt and Syria," a conference source who declined to be identified told AFP.

The finance ministers are to submit a report to their countries' foreign ministers who meet on June 12 in Abu Dhabi.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Urges Afghan Cease-Fire, Seeks Urgent Talks

LD1805222193 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2120 GMT 18May 93

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 18 May (SPA)—Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] Secretary General Hamid Algabid expressed extreme sadness and regret over the grave developments on the Afghan scene during the last few days resulting from random shelling which claimed hundreds of innocent civilians' lives, left thousands injured, and destroyed the remaining property.

In a statement he issued today, he called on all the Afghan leaders who were recently in Saudi Arabia to make a pledge for accord and solidarity by the Kaaba and to sign a peace treaty to which God and the whole world will bear witness. He also urged them to do their utmost to secure an

immediate cease-fire and revert to the language of understanding and negotiations so as to establish peace and stability in their country, and to stop spilling blood and destroying property. [passage omitted]

The ICO secretary general put ambassador Ibrahim Bakr, his assistant and personal representative for Afghan affairs, in charge of a secretariat delegation to visit the region and hold urgent consultations with all the parties concerned. The delegation is due to leave for Islamabad next Tuesday evening.

Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Said To Seek Cairo's Aid on PLO Dialogue Resumption

PM1905090993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 May 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Autonomy Plan Amendments Within 10 Days. Arrangements for Resumption of Dialogue Between Washington and PLO"]

[Excerpt] AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that arrangements are currently being made for the resumption of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue during the recess in the Arab-Israeli negotiations following the conclusion of the ninth round last week.

Informed sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that resumption of the dialogue is seen as one of the proposed U.S. options to encourage the Palestinians to continue to negotiate and participate in the 10th session expected to be held 7 June.

The sources also said that Cairo and Washington were holding consultations on the U.S. ideas in order to secure Egyptian support for these ideas and, subsequently, Egyptian cooperation in bridging the views between the two sides.

Meanwhile, informed Palestinian sources have stated that amendments to the ideas in the new U.S. plan, particularly in relation to autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, will be announced within the next 10 days once the current consultations among the Palestinian factions are completed.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that, in its political contacts with Washington, Cairo has primarily focused on the need to expedite the resumption of the dialogue in the context of moves to strengthen the PLO's position against the Palestinian rejectionist fronts and eliminate the negative results of the ninth round of negotiations in Washington. [passage omitted]

PLO Source Reports on New Diplomatic Initiative

LD1805203593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] A responsible Palestinian source said that, after the failure to achieve any tangible results in the ninth round of the bilateral negotiations, the PLO has decided to begin a diplomatic initiative among the Arab and international parties concerned with the peace process in order to carry out a comprehensive evaluation of the peace process.

This decision was made at the end of a series of meetings held over the last two days in Tunis. The spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations, sister Hanan Ashrawi, and two members of the delegation, brothers Zakariyah al-Agha and Sami Kilani, participated in the meetings.

The Palestinian source said that the brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] may go to Cairo from Vienna for consultations with Egyptian officials. Brother Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee, is expected to arrive in Cairo today to begin the process of Arab consultations in preparation for a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab states.

Negotiator Expects Peace Talks To Resume in June

TA1805145793 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 May 93 p 3

[By Rashid Hilal]

[Text] Ramallah—Dr. Nabil Qasis, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation, has affirmed the Palestinian side's commitment to the peace process. He said that it is better, as a negotiating team, to prepare ourselves as if the talks were continuing but at the same time we must be ready for any alternative.

The negotiating delegation's deputy head said that this approach should prevail as long as we remain committed to the peace process and in the absence of a decision to the contrary.

Dr. Qasis expected the 10th round to resume in June after 'Id al-Adha and after the conclusion of a Palestinian reassessment of what has transpired in the talks until now.

Qasis said that normally the Palestinian side conducts a general assessment of each round, and the ninth round is no exception. This assessment is an extension of previous ones.

On the possibility that differences might break out among members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation in future, Qasis emphasized that it was natural for differences to break out among the negotiating delegation's members, but ultimately they will abide by the decision that will be made by the Palestinian leadership.

'Urayqat Says No Decision Yet on Participation

TA1805145993 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 May 93 p 4

[Text] Ramallah, QUDS PRESS—Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, has expressed his surprise at statements by Israeli sources on the date of the resumption of the 10th round of talks. 'Urayqat said: "No invitation has been extended by the talks' cosponsors to the participating parties to take part in the 10th round. In the event

that such an invitation is extended, the Arab parties have agreed to convene a meeting in the Jordanian capital, Amman, of the Arab foreign ministers concerned in the talks. At this meeting the ninth round will be assessed and any new invitation will be studied." 'Urayqat noted that a collective decision will be made by the Arab parties participating in the peace talks.

Israeli political sources had affirmed that it was decided to hold the 10th round of talks three weeks after the conclusion of the ninth round.

On the results of the ninth round, 'Urayqat said that "the results were placed before the Palestinian leadership." He expressed his belief that "there is an inclination to convene the Palestine Central Council [PCC]" to discuss those results. 'Urayqat stressed that the Palestinian leadership will adopt the decisions on the future of the peace process.

The Palestinian delegation's deputy head called for "the participation of all Palestinian forces and tendencies in the PCC meeting." He added: "Palestinian participation should be general and comprehensive and should include the parties participating as well as those not participating in the peace process." 'Urayqat pointed out that "the issues facing the Palestinian delegation are crucial and concern the Palestinian people during an international era in which developments are moving at a quick pace. Therefore, everyone must attend this meeting in order to adopt decisions in line with the Palestinian people's supreme interests."

Concerning the results of the Palestinian-Israeli talks in the ninth round, 'Urayqat said that "the ninth round was different in terms of the way it was convened and in terms of content." 'Urayqat pointed out that the round was based on pledges by Israel and the United States to the Palestinian side. He asserted, however, that "none of those pledges were fulfilled except the repatriation of the first 30 deportees." 'Urayqat noted that the reduction of the Palestinian delegation's members in the last week of the talks was in protest of the nonfulfillment of U.S. and Israeli undertakings regarding the Marj al-Zuhur deportees and nonimplementation of Security Council Resolution 799.

'Urayqat said: "There was a serious attempt to reach an agreement on principles, but the gap was wide over issues that Israel calls exceptions, especially pertaining to settlements, Jerusalem, and security." 'Urayqat added: "Linkage between the two stages, political elections under appropriate supervision, legislation, the dissolution of the Civil Administration, and consideration of the occupied territories as a single geographic unit were all discussed." 'Urayqat emphasized, however, that "the gap remained wide over these basic issues."

'Arafat Discusses U.S. Role at Talks, Criticizes Iran

AU1905084693 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 2000 GMT 18 May 93

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Elmar Oberhauser in Vienna on 18 May; 'Arafat speaks in English with superimposed German translation—recorded]

[Text] ['Arafat] The main issue is how to achieve true peace. This is very important. How can we achieve real peace? Peace is essential not only for the Palestinians but also for the Arabs, for the Israelis, for Europe, for the United States, for the whole world. As I have mentioned before, the alternative would be complete chaos in this area and a Balkanization.

[Oberhauser] You have pointed out that there are still no specific results. Does this not put pressure on you personally? Are the fundamentalists—Hamas, for instance—not growing stronger all the time? Is there not the danger that this group will deprive you of your authority?

['Arafat] No, this is not the case. We have a democratic system. We are proud of our democracy. I was elected in 1991 on the basis of a political program, and the Palestinian National Council in Algiers accepted and approved that with 84 percent. According to our tradition, in our democracy, we respect the views of our minorities, but the minority must accept the decision of the majority. However, there is no doubt that what has happened under Rabin—the deportation, the escalation of the policy against our children, against our people—will help not only Hamas but also all fanatic groups in Palestine and outside, all over the area. Therefore, I spoke of complete chaos if we are not able to achieve specific results.

[Oberhauser] The United States presented a compromise proposal, which the PLO has not accepted. How do you see the role of the United States and of Clinton? What do you expect of him?

['Arafat] No, actually what you say here is not true. I am sorry that I have to say that, excuse me. What happened? The United States offered us a paper, a proposal, and the paper was headed by the title nonpaper. Can you believe it? With whom did they negotiate? A nonpaper. Can you imagine it? We accepted it despite that. We accepted this nonpaper. We offered our declaration of principles, based on Bush's initiative, the letter of guarantee, and the letter of invitation, which we received from the U.S. Administration and from the cochairman. We came to the negotiations. Then the U.S. Administration opened a dialogue about their proposal. This is very important. With whom did they open the dialogue? Not with both sides but with one side, with Rabin, an 18-hour dialogue with Rabin. Then they came to us and told us: This is the U.S. proposal. However, this was not the U.S. proposal. As of then it was the U.S.-Israeli proposal. How can an honest broker offer one decision to one side and another decision to the other side? How can this be accepted?

[Oberhauser] What do you expect Clinton to do specifically?

['Arafat] Full partnership and honest brokering and to implement and to fulfill the promises we received from Secretary of State Baker before he retired—the resumption of the dialogue with the PLO. We have a right to that.

[Oberhauser] Are you optimistic?

['Arafat] Definitely. Otherwise, how could I survive if I were not optimistic. Without optimism no one can continue under these very difficult circumstances in which our people now live. People are starving in Gaza. Can you imagine that?

[Oberhauser] This afternoon you had a relatively long private talk with Chancellor Vranitzky. Vranitzky will visit Israel on 8 June. Have you conveyed wishes, perhaps even a message, to him?

['Arafat] I hope that he can convince the Israelis to make peace with the Palestinians, peace for our children and their children, peace in the land of peace, in the Holy Land.

[Oberhauser] Is there something like a specific request for mediation from your side?

['Arafat] I think what I just said is sufficient.

[Vienna ORF Television Network in German at 1730 GMT on 18 May reports: "At the beginning of the meeting between Chancellor Vranitzky and PLO Chairman 'Arafat, 'Arafat briefed the chancellor on the PLO's position in the Middle East talks in Washington. A successful conclusion of the peace process is a precondition for getting extremists and fundamentalists under control. In this regard, 'Arafat criticized the role of Iran, which is creating unrest in the Arab world with its attempts to export the Islamic revolution. In the following 30 minutes of private talks, Chancellor Vranitzky's upcoming trip to Israel was also discussed. After the meeting, 'Arafat said that he wished Vranitzky success. His message to the Israeli Government is to spare no effort to achieve real peace. If any Israeli politician would like to meet him, his hand was open, 'Arafat said."]

PLO's al-Najjab: Talks in 'Vicious Circle'

PM1805114793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 May 93 p 6

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Qulaybi] Over two weeks have elapsed since the ninth round of negotiations began. How would you assess its results, and what are the most distinctive observations that can be gleaned from it?

[Al-Najjab] Regrettably, the negotiations in the ninth round are still revolving in the same vicious circle as the previous round in terms of the essence of the negotiations. At the same time the acts of repression and murder are still escalating against our people in the occupied territories, even as a committee is being formed to discuss human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Over two weeks after the ninth round started the Israeli side continues to insist on its previous positions, based on nonrecognition of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as an authority and aim for the negotiations. On that basis, the working papers submitted by the Israeli negotiators, including the recent paper concerning the plan for a declaration of principles, are a repetition of the Israeli negotiators' positions in all the previous rounds. Thus I believe that the road of peace will remain blocked and the negotiations will continue to revolve in the same vicious circle as long as the Israeli side refuses to admit that it is occupying Palestinian land. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qulaybi] But there were special promises from the U.S. sponsor that the Israelis would submit a serious new plan in the ninth round, different from past plans and papers.

[Al-Najjab] Those promises remained promises, even though we knew beforehand the ceiling on those promises, which can in no way be higher than the ceiling of the Israeli positions and concepts in the negotiations held before the ninth round between the Americans and Faysal al-Husayni and Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, during which the full U.S. espousal of the Israeli position was clear and was mixed with so-called "constructive ambiguity."

This is because, while the Americans acknowledge that our Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, is an occupied land, when dealing with the details they refuse to deal with the words "occupied" or "occupation" and begin to talk about certain terms for these territories like employment, administration, planning, and so on.

[Al-Qulaybi] So what is your interpretation of the Palestinian statements which pinned hopes on those U.S. promises?

[Al-Najjab] The people who made the statements have backtracked on them. And I believe that what pushed them to that degree of unjustifiable optimism was their influence in what followed the decision to participate, namely the argument in the ranks of the Palestinian camp which supports the negotiation process aimed at giving the impression that there were U.S. and Arab promises and guarantees which justified our return to the negotiating table. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qulaybi] How can this situation, which could lead once again to the suspension of the negotiation process, be tackled?

[Al-Najjab] The Palestinian negotiators' position is clear and decisive in rejecting the Israeli draft plan for a declaration of principles and in adhering to their plan, which is completely in line with the authority of the negotiating process and serves its implementation. But this round must be followed by bilateral and broadly based national Palestinian meetings with a view to reexamining the negotiation process and avoiding issues and loopholes which have emerged in the recent period.

And the process of reinforcing Palestinian national unity and the unity between those inside and outside the occupied territories, deepening their integration and interaction, and unifying their calculations when making decisions, will remain our main task in order to firmly adhere to our national aims and the peace process. This is in addition to working to organize the relationship between

the forces supporting the negotiations and those rejecting them. Despite the disagreement over this question, there is agreement with regard to confronting the Israeli occupation, developing the intifadah, and confronting Israel's practices and crimes, including working for the return of the deported brothers and the suspension of the deportation policy, rejecting the siege imposed on our people, lifting the isolation on Arab Jerusalem, and halting the murder of our youth and our children.

We also devote great importance to the unity of the Arab position in dealing with the course of the negotiation process. This is because we are all committed to a comprehensive solution and agreed on the precise meaning of a comprehensive solution, which is summed up in the full implementation of all clauses of Security Council Resolution 242 on all fronts. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qulaybi] Abu-Mazin [PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas] said in an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the factors which led the People's Party to refuse to participate in the ninth round would disappear soon. Will your representatives be returning to the negotiating delegation imminently?

[Al-Najjab] The Palestinian delegation as a whole is faced with the obstacles which prevented our participation in the ninth round. These obstacles will continue to exist even after the end of the round. And I believe that our representatives' return—and not just ours—to the negotiations depends on the removal of these obstacles.

[Al-Qulaybi] Am I to understand from your answer that your return is not imminent as Abu-Mazin thinks?

[Al-Najjab] I believe that my answer was clear.

PFLP, DFLP Meet To Discuss Possible Merge

NC1805133993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1258 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Tunis, 18 May (MENA)—The Tunisian newspaper AL-SHURUQ today cites sources close to the Nayif Hawatimah-led Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] as saying that a serious dialogue has been going on for the past two days in Damascus between the DFLP and the George Habash-led Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] with a view to uniting the two fronts into one organization.

The sources say that Hawatimah and Habash are holding direct talks and that a general scheme for unifying the organizational structures has been formulated.

According to the sources, it is likely that George Habash will become the leader of the new front, but his job will be largely ceremonial [sayakun mansibuhu fakhriyan 'amaliyan]. Hawatimah is expected to be the first secretary general [al-amin al-'am al-awwal].

Hamas-Fatah Cooperation Said To Mark 'Shift' in Terror

TA1805144093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 May 93 p A5

[Report by correspondent in the territories Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpts] Palestinian notables in the Gaza Strip believe that the murder of the four vegetable traders on 16 May, for which Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Fatah Hawks assumed joint responsibility, marks a shift in developments in the territories and is an expression of a decision by the commands of both organizations to escalate armed struggle against Israel in order to pressure it and accelerate its withdrawal from the territories. The notables believe that the joint attack came in the wake of the organizations' opening channels of communication and coordination between them, after holding bloody clashes in the Gaza Strip last summer.

This was the first time since the intifadah broke out that Fatah and Hamas squads carried out a joint attack and openly declared operational coordination. The two organizations issued a joint "military leaflet" on 16 May, called: "The First Joint Military Operation," and signed by "the operations room of the battalions of 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam, the military branch of the Hamas Movement, and the secret branch of the Fatah Hawks of the Fatah Movement."

The leaflet explains that the 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam and the Fatah Hawks squads have laid a preplanned ambush and "executed a death sentence," in revenge for the killing of the six 'Izz al-Din al- Qassam fugitives who attempted to cross the border to Egypt, and for the killing of four Fatah Hawks fugitives in the al-Burayj refugee camp in central Gaza Strip. The leaflet says both organizations "will continue striking at the enemy wherever he is found on our soil."

Contacts between the PLO leadership, mainly Fatah, and Hamas leadership in the territories and abroad have yielded no result for a long time due to the harsh struggle between them over the public support in the territories. [passage omitted]

The heavy pressure the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has been applied on the squads of fugitives since the closure was imposed, has significantly diminished their ability to operate due to the fact that many of their members have been captured, killed, or fled to Egypt. Many others were forced to find hideaways and constantly be on the run.

The Palestinian sources believe that this state of affairs has pressed the Fatah and Hamas fugitive squads against the wall, forcing them to cooperate in order to preserve their very existence.

Algeria

Ministry, Lawyers End Dispute Over Special Courts

LD1705111393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Representatives from the Justice Ministry and heads of the lawyers' association have reached an agreement which will allow the special judicial councils to function normally.

The agreement was crowned in a meeting in the capital in the last two days between the above mentioned parties and in the presence of a member of the Higher State Council, APS said today, citing an official source.

Ministry Denies Reports on Accord

LD1705232193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 17 May 93

[Excerpt] The Justice Ministry this afternoon denied the news reported by some national and foreign media outlets regarding the contents of the agreement reached between the representatives of the ministry and leaders of lawyers' associations. In a statement issued this afternoon, the Justice Ministry said that what was reached was an agreement on continuing the normal proceedings of the special court councils.

The council of the National Federation of Algerian Lawyers' Organizations said that the information concerning the contents of the agreement and the people who took part in the talks was untrue.

For the sake of reference, some media outlets have mentioned the suspension of the amendments to the legislative decree concerning combating terrorism and sabotage and the suspension of the defense's boycott of the special court councils. [passage omitted]

Newspaper Editor Escapes Assassination Attempt

LD1705123593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] The editor of EL WATAN newspaper, Mr. Omar Belhouchet, escaped an assassination attempt this morning. Mr. Belhouchet was accompanying his children to school by car in 8 May 1945 (?square) in Bab Ezzouar [Algiers]. Before he set off, he saw a person whose behavior aroused his suspicion and made him set off quickly, thereby avoiding shots fired at him by unidentified men. According to witnesses, three people were near his car, lying in wait for Mr. Belhouchet.

Egypt

Libya Said To Arrange Egypt-Sudan Meeting To Ease Tension

NC1805183493 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 May 93 pp 1, 9

[Excerpt] Diplomatic sources have told AL-SHA'B that a number of Arab leaders, notably Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, have made urgent mediation efforts to ease the tension between Egypt and Sudan. It was agreed that a meeting between Sudanese Deputy Prime Minister Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih and Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif will be held in Libya in the next few hours. [as published]

This positive development was preceded by another one, when the leadership of the two countries agreed to lift the military siege imposed by Egyptian forces on some centers for Sudanese troops. This was confirmed by Omdurman radio Monday, citing Sudanese Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn. A diplomatic Sudanese source denied that his country declared general mobilization against Egypt. He said the story of mobilization was merely a call by some trade associations. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Allegations Against Embassy Criticized

NC1905105593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 May 93

[Unattributed analysis]

[Text] Cairo, 19 May (MENA)—All the signs confirm that the Sudanese regime's recent allegations accusing the Egyptian Embassy in Khartoum of preparing acts of sabotage are a fabricated and exposed game by the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime, which strangely persists in escalating tension with Egypt, which keeps calm and exercises self-restraint, something President Husni Mubarak and Egyptian officials have reiterated out of concern for the fraternal ties between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples.

Several facts expose the Sudanese regime's lies and slander. First, preparing someone who works for the Sudanese security apparatus, sending him to work as a servant at the Egyptian Embassy, and teaching him a weak script that condemns the Embassy and its staff is a naive and blatant method to which the Sudanese security authorities always resort. Leveling accusations is a policy these authorities pursue even against Sudanese politicians and journalists who have been arrested and thrown into "ghost houses" [reference to Sudanese jails], detained in their own homes, or forced to flee the oppression, persecution, and torture imported from Iran. Previous Sudanese regimes never resorted to such means, not even during the British occupation.

The Sudanese regime's series of lies and allegations against Egypt has failed. The regime arrested a Sudanese citizen, claiming he was an Egyptian national, and falsely described him as the leader of the Egyptian community. It accused Egypt of stopping a ship in the Suez Canal en route to Port Sudan. It then became clear that Egypt stopped no ship. President Husni Mubarak reiterated this offer.

Among the accusations was one that Egypt had prepared a coup against Sudan's ruling regime. It became clear that this accusation was a creation of the Sudanese security organs' imagination. This regime was not content with all these allegations, but continued its lies and recently fabricated the naive story that the Egyptian Embassy undertook acts of sabotage.

The Sudanese regime's accusation that Egyptian Ambassador Dr. Hasan Jad-al-Haq himself committed acts of sabotage against Sudan was meant to prove the Sudanese security officials' allegations. These fabrications did not target the ambassador, but aimed to damage Egypt and Egyptian-Sudanese relations. Sudanese officials know Dr. Jad-al-Haq is a professional diplomat, has always worked to smooth the differences, and respects the sovereignty and legitimacy of the state to which he is accredited. Accusing the ambassador and the embassy is ridiculous. It is condemned.

The Sudanese authorities have embarked on a media campaign against Egypt when Egypt's media have remained calm. The security organs picked the time to draw up a poorly scripted play, exploited its hegemony and its dictatorial and repressive policy against the Sudanese people, and forced them to stage marches and demonstrations against Egypt, its president, and its embassy in Khartoum. They even burned the Egyptian flag at the Egyptian Consulate in al-Abyad, capital of Kordofan Province.

The regime also fabricated these allegations while facing internal and foreign isolation following the failure of its terrorist and repressive policy to subjugate the Sudanese people. This policy affected the situation in Sudan, where the various sectors of the Sudanese people are suffering economically and socially from this policy and living in conditions of repression and tyranny.

The Sudanese regime resorted to these allegations against Egypt in an attempt to divert the Sudanese people's attention from their real problems and turned the Hala'ib issue into a fabricated crisis.

Two observations remain. First, with its blatant policy and naive games, which no one knows how to act out, the al-Turabi-al- Bashir regime appears to want to harm itself and then claim that others are harming it. In this, it resembles the street thugs who injure themselves with a bottle or bang their heads with stones so as to falsely accuse others.

Second, this policy—heretofore alien to Egyptian-Sudanese relations—causes much ridicule and sorrow. The Sudanese people reject it and the Egyptians regret it. As President Mubarak said, Egypt will not respond to any aggression by the Sudanese regime out of its concern to protect the Sudanese people and the eternal relations between the two peoples.

Muslim Brotherhood Official on Dispute With Sudan

NC1905111293 Cairo AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH in Arabic 16 May p 3

[Column by Mustafa Mashhur, deputy general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood]

[Text] Why is there all this contradiction between the stands of the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples and governments? Every day we read and hear many reports and statements. Then we read either a denial or correction of these statements.

We hear much talk "considered to be provocative" about Hala'ib by the Egyptian regime. Then we hear a Sudanese reaction and later an Egyptian denial, and so forth. We read about a coup attempt motivated by Egypt against the ruling regime in Sudan. Then we hear an Egyptian denial and later an Egyptian assertion about maintaining good relations between Egypt and Sudan the evidence of which is the presence of three million Sudanese nationals in Egypt.

Suddenly we read reports in our Egyptian papers talking about the presence of training camps for extremists in Sudan and for facilitating their entry into Egypt to foment disturbances. These reports were later denied by Sudan. Then we heard about meetings between the two countries' officials to discuss such issues. Other meetings were held but Egyptian-Sudanese relations remained unclear, primarily due to Egypt's unfairness.

I had previously proposed ending the Hala'ib-related issues as happened with the Tabah issue without having to resort to threats and the use of force. The Egyptian and Sudanese people will greatly abhor the eruption of fighting between the Egyptian and Sudanese Armed Forces. I am certain that the two peoples will opt for complete unity between the two countries if a referendum is held. But there are quarters that are against any rapprochement and that seek to sow sedition and enmity between the two governments, especially after the recent Islamic tendency is noted in Sudan.

We sense an international vicious campaign against Islam and the Muslims. This is evident in what is taking place in Bosnia- Herzegovina and in what has started to take place in Kosovo. It is also evident in the ongoing events in Palestine, India, Kashmir, Myanmar, and others. We see that certain Arab regimes are allowing secular figures to attack Islam and attribute to it acts of violence and extremism. The enemies are against the sound and full application of shari'ah in any Islamic state. The shari'ah is bound to achieve security, justice, freedom, dignity, and a good life for the people.

We urge all the Arab and Islamic governments not to follow the footsteps of the enemies and undermine relations. We urge them to respond to God's command and seek to establish unity and cooperation so that we may restore our strength and pride and we may deserve God's promise to us for victory and self-control. "And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God (stretches out for you), and be not divided among yourselves." "God has promised, to those among you who believe and work righteous deeds, that He will, of surety, grant them in the land, inheritance (of power), as He granted it to those before them; that He will establish in authority their religion—the one which He has chosen for them; and that He will change (their state), after the fear in which they (lived), to one of

security and peace; they will worship Me (alone) and not associate aught with Me." [Koranic verses]

It will be the best for all people if we respond to God's appeal and if we do not respond to the enemies of God. This will enable us to establish integration, self-sufficiency, and dignity and to get rid of subservience and persecution.

We read in the papers that there is a Western plan to interfere in Sudan. We hope that reports about starvation in Sudan will not be used as a pretext for intervention as happened in Somalia. We also hope that the Western countries will not escalate the situation between Egypt and Sudan. We were pleased when we read a statement by President Husni Mubarak in AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that said he will not fight Sudan.

Musa, Israeli Ambassador Discuss Peace Process

NC1805202293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with the Israeli ambassador to Egypt this evening. The ambassador said the discussions dealt with issues of concern to both countries, including the peace process. He said that in response to Egyptian endeavors, the Israeli authorities issued 45,000 work permits for Palestinians to work in Israel. He said the Israeli deputy foreign minister will visit Egypt in early June.

PLO's 'Abbas Meets Musa, Comments on Peace Talks

NC1805140693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1236 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met with Mahmud 'Abbas, alias "Abu-Mazin," PLO Executive Committee member, who is currently visiting Cairo. Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs; and Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador in Cairo, also attended the meeting. After the meeting, 'Abbas said that they discussed the outcome of the ninth round of peace talks within the framework of Egyptian-PLO coordination.

'Abbas said that the ninth round made some progress and was not a failure. Both Palestinian and Israeli parties discussed substance through the committees on concept and territory. He pointed out that the conclusion of the Palestinian-Israeli talks in these committees yielded two papers or two frameworks of action submitted by the Israelis and Palestinians. He said: "I consider that what we have achieved at this round is acceptable and different from the previous rounds even though there was no tangible material result."

On Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that he will not make any concessions to the Palestinians in the future unless they offer something, 'Abbas said that it is a big mistake for Rabin to declare linking human rights to political issues. Human rights, he said, cannot be linked to progress or lack of progress in political issues. We call on Rabin to take steps regarding the deportees in Marj al-Zuhur, the deportees of 1967, lifting the siege of the occupied territories, or releasing detainees. He noted that from a purely humanitarian and even political viewpoint, human rights cannot be linked to progress at the negotiating table.

'Abbas said that he and Musa discussed the topics that will be submitted to the foreign ministers of the five Arab countries concerned with the peace process to discuss the outcome of the ninth round. He did not mention the date of the meeting.

On the escalation of the situation in the occupied territories, 'Abbas said that the Israeli escalation in and around the territories can only obstruct the peace process. If they ease the situation, it will help the peace process move forward.

On reports about a meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Faruq Qaddumi, director of the PLO Political Department; 'Abbas said: "There is no such meeting and we have no information on this issue, but we demand it."

Saddam, King Husayn Reportedly Agreed To Cancel Notes

NC1805174193 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 May 93 pp 1, 3

[Article by Chief Editor Mahfuz al-Ansari entitled: "With the President in the Gulf; Why the Provocation and Mischief? The Return of Damascus and the Liberation of Hala'ib"]

[Excerpt] Manama [passage omitted] In the Gulf, we got to learn a bit of the truth about a development that once looked as if it involved a conflict between Baghdad and 'Amman, namely, the decision by the Iraqi president to close the borders and cancel the 25-dinar banknote.

We learned that the move was planned in advance by the Iraqi field marshal [Saddam Husayn] and the Hashemite king [Husayn].

Large quantities of the 25-dinar notes were printed outside Iraq and dumped onto the markets in northern Iraq.

From northern Iraq, these notes found their way, in huge quantities, to Jordan. Large commercial transactions were conducted with the 25-dinar notes.

The king and the field marshal agreed to contain the process by killing [i'dam] the 25-dinar denomination, by canceling it, and closing the borders to prevent its entry, exchange, or return to the Iraqi Central Bank.

But the implications of the move were bigger and more far-reaching than the agreement concluded between a field marshal named Saddam and a king named Husayn.

Tens of thousands of Jordanians were financially ruined.

Scores committed suicide. Others died of bitterness, of heart attack, of the shock of financial ruin. Those who were financially ruined but remained alive turned into a burden for the regime.

The conclusion is this: The policy of adventures, conspiracies, and ambitions only gets its own masterminds into one quandary after another. [passage omitted]

'Khomeyni's Heirs' Warned Against 'Dreadful Mirage'

NC1405150593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR points out that Iran has not understood the lesson the world community taught the Iraqi regime because of its expansionist ambitions and its usurpation of others' territory. It notes that the Iraqi regime was eventually isolated both from its people and the world and that the Iraqi people are still suffering from the resulting massive losses.

In an editorial today, AL-AKHBAR asks "do the leaders of the so-called Islamic Republic in Iran believe that they are capable of seizing any Arab land at the threshold of the 21st century without meeting the same destiny, if not worse, that Saddam Husayn met, no matter how many weapons they amass or what kind of terrorism they export?"

The paper points out that the true leadership the world of today respects is that which depends on scientifically and industrially advanced countries that have a high standard of living and a solid economy, not those that limit their interest to the amassing of weapons to terrorize and blackmail their neighbors.

AL-AKHBAR concludes that "Khomeyni's heirs" should learn that a man who plants thorns will reap nothing but thorns no matter what he does, and that their devious ways will only lead them to a dreadful mirage.

Government Said Seeking NATO Help Against Extremists

LD1805171393 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA—A leading Islamic newspaper in Cairo Tuesday reported that Egypt has asked the help of NATO, France, Spain and Britain to strike at what the regime calls "extremist groups." Bi-weekly paper AL-SHA'B said it possesses documents which show that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has assigned its embassy in Bonn to seek NATO's advice and aid to confront Islamic groups in Egypt. But the alliance refused Cairo's request saying it was not the practice to offer help to non-member states to resolve domestic problems.

According to a report prepared by the embassy's third secretary, Hazim Ramdahn [as received], NATO's special committee on the situation in the Mediterranean met secretly last October to discuss the "Islamic resurgence." The committee is to meet again in June to discuss the same topic, said the paper in its front-page lead story.

But some European states have supported the tough measures adopted by the Mubarak regime to confront the Islamic movement in Egypt. France, Britain and Spain have promised to supply Egypt with all information regarding the activities of Islamic groups in their territories, while Cairo has given them files on Islamic groups in Egypt.

Mubarak's Remarks on Terrorism, Gulf Tour Discussed

NC1805132193

[Editorial Report] Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic on 17 May on pages 1 and 3 carries a 1,400-word report by Chief Editor Jalal Duwaydar on a discussion between President Husni Mubarak and "the chief editors of Egyptian newspapers" aboard the plane flying Mubarak back to Cairo on 16 May from an eight-day tour of six Gulf countries.

Duwaydar cites President Mubarak calling the tour "timely and completely successful." Mubarak says the trip "achieved all its objectives, in terms of benefiting the Arab people and boosting bilateral relations between Egypt and the brotherly Gulf countries."

Citing Mubarak's pledge to fight terror, Duwaydar writes: "The president said that within the framework of the country's efforts to fight the extremists who receive their orders from outside the country, restrictions will be placed on telephone contacts with Pakistan, Iraq, Tehran, Sudan, and Afghanistan. The president said the measure was taken because the investigation of terror cases proved that telephone and fax lines were being used to link these countries and the elements hired to undertake terror actions that aimed to harm the Egyptian people and undermine the Egyptian economy."

Duwaydar cites Mubarak saying: "Gulf security was at the top of the issues discussed on the tour." Mubarak told Gulf officials of "Egypt's insistence, because of its pan-Arab obligations and its need to defend its own security, to participate in protecting the Arab Gulf region against threats, terror, and blackmail."

On Arab solidarity, Mubarak told the chief editors that the Gulf leaders he met showed "interest" in arriving at "a formula to close the Arab ranks." Mubarak said: "Efforts are under way to resolve the border disputes between Qatar and Bahrain and between Saudi Arabia and Yemen, to normalize relations between Gulf countries and the PLO and Jordan, and to solve problems among north African countries."

Turning to the dispute with Sudan, Mubarak is cited as saying: "There is no dispute between Egypt and the brotherly Sudanese people. The dispute is with [National Islamic Front leader Hasan] al-Turabi, who is engaged in hostile acts against Egypt."

On economic cooperation, Duwaydar cites Mubarak noting: The Gulf leaders "showed interest in cooperating

with Egypt in every field." This includes a promise from Saudi King Fahd "to continue to invest in projects in Egypt." [United Arab Emirates] UAE President Shaykh Zayid Al Nuhayyan "stressed his support within the framework of his appreciation of the Egyptian role and based on his love for Egypt and the Egyptians." Kuwait also promised to continue "financing the project to reclaim 400,000 feddans" in Sinai.

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic on 17 May on pages 1 and 5 carries a 1,500-word report by Chief Editor Mahfuz al-Ansari on the same topic.

According to al-Ansari, the president said he and the Gulf leaders "discussed security in the Gulf and the region at length." Mubarak told the editors: "We also reviewed the international position on terror and the countries and groups that support it."

Al-Ansari continues: "In this respect, the president referred to a decision by Saudi Arabia and the UAE to ban the activities of private societies that raise funds and funnel them to unknown or suspect quarters. The two countries have introduced a regulation requiring fund-raisers to obtain state approval before raising funds and to specify in advance the way in which the funds will be raised and the identity of the beneficiaries."

The president said there has been "full agreement with the six Gulf leaders on the need to confront the policies of the states masterminding and supporting terrorism."

According to al-Ansari, President Mubarak was asked if Egypt is "pressuring the Palestinians and the PLO to make concessions." Mubarak states: Egypt exerts efforts so that the Palestinian people may restore "their rights in full" and adds: "Egypt has never exerted and does not exert any pressure. On the contrary, it has always supported the PLO and will continue to do so."

Brotherhood Leader Praises Jordanian Deputies' Position

NC1805154593 Cairo AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH in Arabic 16 May 93 pp 1, 6

["Text" of message by Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, to deputies of the "Islamic Movement—Muslim Brotherhood" in Jordan; date not given]

[Text] It has been a source of relief and satisfaction for us to hear the words of truth you have stated to all officials, which echo the feelings of each and every Muslim who proclaims that there is no God but Allah and that Muhammad is His messenger. These words affirm that the issue of Palestine is the cause of all Muslims from the four corners of the earth, that the liberation of the al-Aqsa Mosque as well as holy Jerusalem is an inalienable duty for each Muslim, and that all Muslims would be sinful before God if they shirked this inalienable duty.

We concur with you on this matter, which is a right for the entire Islamic nation and a duty for all Muslims. It is impermissible for anybody whosoever to make a unilateral decision on this matter involving the relinquishment of a single inch of this sacred land or a grain of its holy soil. To insist on continuing the negotiations that seek to give the usurpers everything and to deny the owners of the land everything is in fact a waiver of the trust which the Muslims gave the rulers to honor. The Palestinian people, with their blessed uprising at the hands of the children of stones who broke free from the shackles of captivity, are advancing proof every day that rights cannot be lost as long as they are backed by force, even if it is a stone in the hand of child, and that without this force, rights will turn into a scream in an empty valley that will not have an echo in the hearts of the people.

Fighting for the sake of God and serious jihad, in all types, constitutes the response to God Almighty's call from heaven. We join you in calling upon all those who got involved in this risky path, the path of negotiations, to walk out of it before the ship and those on board sink. We join you in advising Muslims, both rulers and ruled, that preparation, mobilization, unity are the only ways to survive God's accountability on the day of judgment. We agree with you that loyalty to the blood of the martyrs and wounded and to the grief of the detainees and the steadfast deportees in Marj al-Zuhur in the diaspora is a duty that everyone must come to terms with today before tomorrow.

We will continue to pursue the same path with you, seeking one of the two honors [victory or martyrdom]. May God honor your jihad. God is with you and will never leave you alone, for He is truly capable

Muslim Brotherhood Leader Demands Legal Recognition

NC1905110593 Cairo AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH in Arabic 9 May 93 p 1

[Text] Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, the Muslim Brotherhood general guide, has emphasized that the Muslim Brotherhood demands legal recognition to give it the right to move securely, to make people comfortable with it, and to prevent security organs from pursuing it and exercising arbitrary measures against it. He said: Legal recognition will enable us to publish magazines and newspapers and to call for mass meetings, go to the streets, and contact people in all walks of life.

In a press statement Abu-al-Nasr stressed that the Muslim Brotherhood, thanks be to God, has existed in the darkest circumstances and still exists. The authorities in all eras recognized the reality of its existence, its strength, and the people's deep faith in its principles.

Abu-al-Nasr noted that there is a need for amending the political system to ensure the freedom to form political parties, and thereby parties will emerge from the genuine popular will and will express the wishes of various ideological groups and those who have such interests. This entails the need for freedom to publish newspapers and magazines and to hold public mass meetings.

Abu-al-Nasr stressed that political reform is the key to social, intellectual, and economic reform. This will lead to

the people's cohesion and enhance their interest in the affairs of the society and state. It will also close the door to deviation, extremism, and violence, and open vistas of peaceful development and progress. He stressed the need for amending election law in such a way as to emphasize and guarantee a sound and honest election process. He also called for amending the laws on forming the People's Assembly so as to have real power in imposing the people's will.

Attempt To Reestablish al-Jihad Organization Noted

NC1805143693 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 17 May 93 p 14

[Report by Hamdi Rizq]

[Excerpts] The Supreme State Security Prosecution, presided over by Counselor 'Abd-al-Majid Mahmud, has launched an investigation into case No. 123 for 1993, better known as "the reorganization of the al-Jihad Organization." The case involves some 400 defendants, including 10 Palestinians who belong ideologically to the Salih Sariyah group, known as "the technical military academy organization."

ROSE AL-YUSUF has learned that the majority of the defendants are new to the organization. They are led by Majdi Salim and his brother 'Abdallah. The first had been acquitted of the charge of belonging to the al-Jihad Organization. [passage omitted]

According to the findings, some of these defendants traveled to Afghanistan and met with al-Jihad activist Ayman al-Zawahiri, 34 years old, who instructed them to return to Cairo and gave them money to buy weapons to try to reorganize the basic cadres of the al-Jihad Organization to revive it in Cairo.

The group succeeded in attracting over 300 members, mostly from northern Egypt governorates (al-Minufiyah, al-Buhayrah, Alexandria, Port Said, and Kafr al-Shaykh) in addition to Cairo, the area which led the organization uncovered last January.

The security forces seized highly secret plans and anti-regime leaflets along with the defendants. These documents were written by the imprisoned al-Jihad members, particularly 'Abbud al-Zumur, who gave instructions to the new organization to assassinate some public figures, officials, and security officials, especially state security figures who aborted the first organization. Al-Zumur's goal is to enter the arena which the Islamic Group has controlled since 1984.

According to a security source, the Palestinians arrested as part of the Organization were captured at the al-Sallum border point as they were trying to smuggle weapons, documents, explosives, and specific instructions to Organization Leader Majdi Salim.

Investigations revealed that the al-Jihad leaders are trying to penetrate northern Egypt governorates now that the Islamic Group has controlled the arena in Upper Egypt. They also seek to escape the security pursuit in Upper Egypt and appear as independent from the Islamic Group which monopolizes both media and security attention.

Police Arrest 'Dangerous Extremists' in Southern Towns

NC1705172693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Asyut, 17 May (MENA)—Security services in Asyut today arrested four dangerous extremists in Manfalut and Dayrut. 'Ali Sarhan 'Abd-al-Hakim, one of the extremists, was injured in a gunfight with the police and transferred to Asyut General Hospital for treatment.

The arrests were the result of a campaign organized by the Asyut security chief. Policemen also seized three automatic rifles and three loaded magazines with the terrorists.

Security Increased at Border, Ports To Prevent Arms Entry

NC1805095093 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 May 93 p 1

[Report by Yusri Shabanah]

[Text] Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi has ordered that security be stepped up at border points, ports, and airports to prevent arms entering the country.

A criminal laboratory report has confirmed that the weapons used by terrorists have been smuggled in from abroad. The minister asked security officials at the ports and airports to foil any attempt to smuggle weapons. The airports and ports have been given the latest technical equipment to locate explosives and weapons.

Report Details Extremists' Infiltration of Education

NC1505100093 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 11 May 93 p 1

[Report by Zaki al-Sa'dani]

[Text] A responsible source in the Education Ministry has revealed the existence of an extremist organization affiliated to the al-Jihad Organization inside the universities. The organization includes more than 1,000 students in 24 education colleges in 12 universities across the governorates.

Education colleges took in 15,000 male and female students last year who had obtained high school diplomas or their equivalent. This includes 9,400 students studying arts and 5,600 studying sciences and were accepted through the coordination bureau.

Education Minister Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din has announced that all extremist elements will be barred from the teaching profession. A Ministry source has confirmed that dozens of teachers have been barred from the teaching profession because of their membership in extremist organizations.

The security organs have pinpointed more than 90 of the 25,000 schools across the Republic where the extremist elements are active. The security organs have also pinpointed 300 people working in the education field who belong to extremist organizations.

The education minister has received a report on the extent of extremism in schools and universities. The report listed the names of extremist students and teachers, and added that they pose a grave danger to the education system and are active in recruiting university students and organizing them in extremist cells by giving them financial and material incentives as assistance.

Libya

Sudanese Official Views Merger Program, Departs

LD1805183393 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1755 GMT 18 May 93

[Excerpts] Surt, 18 May (JANA)—Brother al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the Revolution Command Council vice chairman and deputy prime minister in fraternal Sudan, and the accompanying delegation, left the Great Jamahiriyah at noon today after taking part in the proceedings of the second session of the ministerial committee on the Libyan Arab-Sudanese merger. [passage omitted]

Brother al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih made a statement to a JANA correspondent in which he noted the importance of the agreement on the merger programs between the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan.

Brother al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih said in his statement that the implementation of this program will lead to a comprehensive unity that will be an example to be copied by Arab countries.

Joint Committee Discusses Cooperation With Ukraine

LD1805173393 Tripoli JANA in English 1647 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Sirte, al Ma' [May] 18, JAMAHIRIYAh NEWS AGENCY—The meetings of the Arab Libyan-Ukrainian joint committee have resumed today.

The meetings were attended by Bershida Afjini the vice-president of the Republic of Ukraine [name and title as received] who is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah to attend the meetings of the Arab Libyan-Ukrainian joint committee and a number of experts and specialists in the various sectors in the Great Jamahiriyah and Ukraine.

The meetings studied the appropriate means for the strengthening of cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Sudan

Further Reportage on Government, SPLA Abuja Talks

Delegations Meet 17 May

EA1805102793 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] The government delegation and John Garang's faction of the rebel movement held two discussion sessions in Abuja yesterday—one in the morning and another in the evening—under the chairmanship of Dr. Tunji Olagunju, chairman of the conference. The Nigerian side presented a text of a joint statement to define the points of agreement and disagreement. The sessions contained intensive deliberations in an attempt to reach an agreed text.

The two sides will continue their discussions this morning. Our radio correspondent in Abuja predicts that the talks may be postponed to give an opportunity for further consultations. It is worth mentioning that the Nigerian mediator had earlier asked the two sides to prepare a report on the points of agreement and disagreement with the objective of determining the progress of the negotiations. It is worth noting that the rebel, John Garang, arrived in Abuja yesterday.

'Possible Adjournment' of Talks

AB1805115493 Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English 1030 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Representatives of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, SPLA, and the Khartoum Government will be meeting later today in Abuja, Nigeria's capital, for a possible adjournment of their peace talks. The leader of the SPLA, Mr. John Garang, arrived in Abuja unexpectedly yesterday. Mr. Nhial Deng Nhial, spokesman for the SPLA, examined the Sudanese peace talks with John Elaigu:

[Begin recording] [Nhial] My assessment is that we have not really made much progress. We have not been able to make a breakthrough with respect to the important issue of religion and state so as to be able to tackle the other questions such as the restructuring of state power. We were not able to do that during Abuja I. We are yet to do it, since we have not been able to do it over the past three weeks or so.

[Elaigu] [passage indistinct] I see. What I am trying to get out of you is whether or not this three weeks' meet has been of any significance for the search for peace in the Sudan.

[Nhial] Well, maybe these talks this time around were characterized by an atmosphere that was more candid, perhaps a little bit more serious in terms of our negotiations with the Government of Sudan, and to that extent, or in that sense, you could say that there has been a little progress: We have been able to familiarize ourselves much more thoroughly with each other's views than has hitherto been the case, and we hope that that would be of some use in the future when there is a process for peace. The quest of peace is an ongoing thing. [end recording]

No Agreement on Communique

EA1805132093 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] (SUNA)—No final text of the final communique on the negotiation session between the government and the main rebel faction has been agreed upon. The communique was expected to be issued today. The reason is the point of difference raised by the Garang group concerning the devolution of the remaining powers to the states, a matter which was not discussed earlier during the negotiations.

The final session for issuing the final communique broke up today, in the light of the outcome of the meeting of the heads of delegations. Mr. Tunji Olagunju, head of the Nigerian mediation team, had earlier fixed 1000 this morning as the time to hold the final session of the negotiations.

It is worth mentioning that the meeting had discussed and approved most of the paragraphs of the final communique until Garang's group raised [word indistinct] discussion on the point which caused the disagreement, as it had not been discussed before. The meeting adjourned twice to allow the two delegations to discuss the matter on their own, but the matter was not settled.

Talks Postponed Until 19 Jun

AB1805110293 Paris AFP in English 1051 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Abuja, May 18 (AFP)—Sudanese peace talks were called off here after southern rebels challenged the military junta in Khartoum to hold a referendum offering a choice between national unity or Islamic law.

A Sudanese Government spokesman said the negotiations had been adjourned until June 19.

Winding up the meeting, the Nigerian chief mediator, Tunji Olangunju, said the Khartoum team and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) had been unable to reach agreement on any joint statement.

Late Monday [17 May], the SPLA, which is fighting for a secular state in Sudan where most southerners are animists or Christians, called on the junta to give northerners a choice between strict shari'ah law or the national unity of the country.

Government Delegation Returns Home

EA1805201893 Khartoum SUNA in French 1640 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, 18 May (SUNA)—The Sudanese Government delegation taking part in the Abuja peace talks, led by Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, arrived in Khartoum on 18 May from Abuja, Nigeria.

In a press statement, Mr. Khalifah said that during the negotiations, agreement had been reached on a number of differing points. He added that it had been decided to reopen the peace talks between the Sudanese Government and Garang's faction on 19 June.

Official Explains Events in Nigeria

EA1805212293 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] The government delegation attending the Abuja peace negotiations led by Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah returned to Khartoum at 1800 today, having completed a round of talks in Abuja.

Dr. Tunji Olagunju, the chairman of the conference, spoke during the closing session this morning, during which he made a statement saying that the joint communique had not been signed by the relevant parties. He also gave an account of the proceedings of the negotiations since their commencement on 26 April, including the points of agreement and disagreement between the two sides.

The articles of the agreement provided for resuming negotiations on outstanding issues, extension of the cease-fire so as to facilitate the provision of aid to areas in need, the formation of a body to supervise the distribution of national revenues. The outstanding issues comprise security measures during the transitional period: the situation in the south and determination of its geographical boundaries and the relationship between religion and the state.

He indicated disparities in the views on the details of some of these items, such as those of the cease-fire, the situation in the south, and the distribution of competencies. Dr. Tunji Olagunju, the chairman of the conference, announced the deferment of the negotiations until June, stressing his country's readiness to work for peace in Sudan.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ali al-Hajj, the government delegation's official spokesman, has held a press conference following the end of the closing session. He said: During the negotiations, which lasted three weeks, we discussed many issues. He added that the direct negotiations held between the two sides within the framework of the delegation heads' committee dealt with important issues during Abuja-2, provided a positive atmosphere, and extended support to the efforts of the Nigerian Government overseeing the negotiations.

Dr. Ali al-Hajj said the direct talks make for confidence-building between the two sides and stated that the delegation heads' committee had made progress on many issues. He issued a communique on the articles of what had been agreed on and what remained in dispute and of what could be discussed later.

He said what was required was the signing of a joint communique which would reflect the seriousness of the discussions, particularly to the Nigerians. We had no objections to the communique prepared by the Nigerians apart from certain reservations here and there. We agreed to the reservations put forward by the other side and then we believed that we had reached the final stage for signing the joint communique. Then, he said, a question suddenly arose over the remaining competencies of the federal

government and the state, respectively. Dr. Ali al-Hajj said that this issue had not been brought up earlier. What had been discussed earlier had dealt with the respective competencies of the center and the state and joint competencies. He went on to say: We had thought it fit that the remaining competencies should be discussed during the next stage. He said General (Godabi), a member of the Nigerian mediation group, had himself stressed that neither side should press the issue of the remaining competencies.

Dr. Ali al-Hajj said that another side [as heard] had insisted on inserting this issue within the competencies of the state, stressing that he would refuse to sign the joint communique if that was not done. Dr. Ali al-Hajj said: We sat with the other side in the presence of General (Godabi) to discuss the articles of the communique and the issue of signing it, but the other side insisted on maintaining its stands and refused to sign the joint communique. Thus it became apparent that the position of rebel Garang's faction in this respect was irresponsible, unjust, and illogical.

He expressed the view that Garang's faction was propelled by foreign quarters and its refusal to sign denoted lack of confidence. He said that one of the other sides was not making its decisions on its own. Dr. Ali al-Hajj announced that the negotiations would resume on 19 June in Abuja.

Further Reportage on Hala'ib Border Controversy

Support Convoy To Leave Next Week

EA1705131293 Khartoum SUNA in English 0955 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] [no dateline, as received] (SUNA)—Preparations are going on to stage a support convoy to Hala'ib Province next week carrying supplies to affirm the Sudanese stance and support to the people in Hala'ib, said Ahmad 'Abd al-Jabar, secretary-general of al-Watan Youth Organisation in Khartoum. He added in a statement to AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH daily newspaper that many centres were opened to register the volunteered youth to defend the country and our creed. He added that cultural programmes were made. He also explained that this convoy will be accompanied by a number of officials.

Mubarak's Remarks Contradictory

EA1705135593 Khartoum SUNA in English 0940 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] [no dateline, as received] (SUNA)—Al-SUDAN AL-HADITH daily newspaper wrote in its word Monday [17 May] about the Egyptian president's contradiction where the editor explained his talks in some Arab countries about negotiations and the best way to solve disputes and to renunciate war and turmoil. While on an interview in Kuwait he answered a question about his government's escalation of Hala'ib situation: He said that we won't do anything to let the Sudanese people suffer because of this problem. The editor said that Mubarak is not the guardian of Sudan. To speak in that way, on behalf of its people and to claim that he won't let them suffer, as if it is on his hand to bring good living.

The editor added that the truth of this problem is known by every Arab. He also tackled the Egyptian involvement in Sudan's interior affairs, a plot which has recently been disclosed, and that the Egyptian Government's aim is to draw away the tension of the Egyptian people from what is going inside their country. [sentence as received]

Egyptian Envoy Summoned Over Contacts With Sudanese

Protest Note Handed to Envoy

NC1805124493 Paris AFP in English 1159 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, May 18 (AFP)—The Sudanese Government has summoned Egyptian Ambassador Hasan Jad-al-Haq in a protest after the diplomat allegedly admitted knowing a Sudanese national who had made threats to foreign missions here, official sources said Tuesday.

The state-run daily AL-INQADH AL-WATANI said that Jad-al-Haq told Sudanese authorities here that Mustafa Muftah Basha had frequently visited his house and the embassy "seeking assistance for medical treatment in Egypt."

Mustafa Basha was arrested by security officials and shown on national television confessing that he had been recruited by the Egyptian Embassy to deliver threatening notes and packages of explosives to other foreign missions in exchange for large sums of money and a proposed job.

Jad-al-Haq, who was summoned by the Sudanese Government for the third time in a month, was reportedly told that his account of events was unconvincing, the state-run newspaper said.

In recent weeks, relations have been increasingly strained between Cairo and the military junta in Khartoum, which is backed by Muslim fundamentalists.

The two countries have stepped up a war of words over the disputed, oil-rich Red Sea territory of Hala'ib on their joint border, where Sudan has accused Egypt of posting thousands of troops.

Protest Over 'Hostile Activities'

NC1805151893 Paris AFP in English 1409 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, May 18 (AFP)—The Sudanese Government has protested to Egyptian Ambassador Hasan Jad al-Haq for hiring a Sudanese national to carry out "hostile activities," Foreign Ministry official Hasan 'Abidin said Tuesday.

'Abidin denied, however, a report in the state-run daily AL- INQADH Al-WATANI that Jad al-Haq had been summoned to the ministry on Monday to receive a protest. A memorandum had been officially delivered to the ambassador, he said, protesting against "what we regard as a subversive act, ... especially by a sister country."

The paper said that Jad al-Haq told Sudanese authorities here that the Sudanese national, Mustafa Muftah Basha,

had frequently visited his house and the embassy "seeking assistance for medical treatment in Egypt."

Mustafa Basha was arrested by security officials and shown on national television confessing that he had been recruited by the Egyptian Embassy to deliver threatening notes and packages of explosives to other foreign missions in exchange for large sums of money and a proposed job.

AL-INQADH Al-WATANI also claimed that Mustafa Basha had been hired by the Egyptian Embassy to tape record a scenario about Sudan's alleged support for international terrorism.

Jad al-Haq was reportedly told that his account of events was unconvincing, the state-run newspaper said.

Asked whether the Sudanese Government was considering any action against the ambassador, 'Abidin said all options were being studied and moves would be made at the "appropriate time." He said there was a "likelihood" the diplomat would be declared persona non grata.

In recent weeks, relations have been increasingly strained between Cairo and the military junta in Khartoum, which is backed by Muslim fundamentalists.

The two countries have stepped up a war of words over the disputed, oil-rich Red Sea territory of Hala'ib on their joint border, where Sudan has accused Egypt of posting thousands of troops.

Ministry Official on Protest Note

EA1805210493 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] The Foreign Ministry this morning delivered a protest note to the Egyptian Embassy in Khartoum regarding the embassy's destructive plans and attempts aimed against the country's security and stability, as well as disseminating untrue allegations to the effect that Sudan was harboring and supporting terrorism.

Dr. Hasan 'Abidin, acting director of the Department of Political Affairs, said at the Foreign Ministry's international desk today that such actions were unworthy of the embassy of a friendly and neighboring state. He said Sudan had not declared the Egyptian ambassador persona non grata, in spite of the fact that such an option was part of diplomatic practice. Dr. 'Abidin said Sudan was not seeking any international arbitration on the Hala'ib area and had forwarded a note on latest developments there to the UN Security Council.

His excellency stressed the government's adherence to solving the southern problem peacefully by way of negotiations, referring to rebel Garang's double-dealing and his refusal to attend the Abuja-2 negotiations in spite of having agreed to do so at Entebbe. His excellency stated that Nairobi and Abuja had witnessed intensive activities on the part of foreign envoys aimed at obstructing the negotiations.

His excellency announced that Sudan will participate at the Geneva human rights talks next July, adding that Sudan had made many contacts with Asian and African states aimed at preventing certain quarters from using the human rights issue as a means of interfering in Sudan.

His excellency drew attention to the role performed by Sudan in bringing viewpoints closer together between the government and the opposition in Chad.

Egyptian Role in Current Events Analyzed

EA1805181293 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 May 93

[Excerpts] We now present our political talk. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Heroic Sudanese people. The conspiratorial mentality of the Pharaonic regime in Egypt is a sterile mentality which will only give birth to deformed and premature ideas lacking the elixir of life. Thus they die quickly exposing it.

The embassies of the Egyptian regime have adopted certain roles in targeted countries, Sudan being the first one. [passage indistinct]. It does not wish Sudan to ever break away from its captivity. Then it smiles in the face of the world, claiming immortal relations and affection to justify its vexatious embrace and flagrant interference in every aspect of Sudanese affairs. It used to dispatch its ambassadors as behind-the-scene rulers of Sudan, frightening anyone they could reach from among those in power. [passage omitted]

However, the period of separation came with the arrival of the National Salvation Revolution asking for relations to be based on the basis of equality, independence, and understanding under the collective characteristics of religion, culture, language and neighborliness. However, the Egyptian regime rejected all this because it had already designed a strategy of action on the basis of Sudan's former status. It considered it as being under its trusteeship or mandate and as remaining incapable, the divided, weak, and impoverished having nothing to do but to obey and respond to the (?wishes) of the politicians in the Egyptian regime [passage omitted].

Egypt has sought separate points of entry. After collecting members of the opposition, providing money for them and facilitating hostile action by sending weapons and ammunition to the rebel movement, collecting the scattered remnants of the incompetent, and urging them to uproot the revolution of Sudanese salvation, it found them all lacking in determination to reach the heart of national salvation and so employed Egypt's Embassy in Sudan to carry out the tasks. [passage omitted]

Now the president [of Egypt] moves only in helicopters, out of fear of his people and opponents. It is for this reason that the Egyptian diplomatic bag carries explosives in order to distribute them as presents in the yards of embassies accredited to Khartoum. It wants them to explode so as to be able to stick the charge of terrorism on Sudan.

It is exploiting the misfortunes of unemployed people and is tempting them to make false statements, to distribute

them to countries, some of which believed these fabrications and adopted certain positions towards Sudan without a single piece of evidence, apart from the fabrications of Egyptian intelligence. However, the eye of the national salvation never sleeps or dozes. [passage omitted]

We are consoled by the fact that Arab and foreign embassies are aware of the lies of the Egyptian regime and its wicked fundamentalist methods. They have no confidence in or respect for them. They are also aware of what is going on in Sudan and in the training camps, whether they are for people's defense or something else.

They know that throughout history Sudan has never played any role in a terrorist incident. It played no role even with regard to incidents which occurred on its territory as they were perpetrated by non-Sudanese hands.

For this reason neither the Egyptian intelligence nor the embassy would be able to direct Sudan onto a course other than the one it had chosen. The Egyptian Embassy has every right to tell lies and get into conspiracies since the head of its regime is the greatest liar and the most wicked of conspirators [akdhab al-khadhibin wa akhbath al-muta'mirin]. He is only comfortable in an atmosphere of hostility. Whenever the tempests of wars and problems quiet down, he comes along to fan them, to start the fires again, as he tried in his abortive Arab tour to Arab countries in the peninsula and the gulf to urge them to hostility towards Iran and to warn them against its ambition. He then presented his requests for money from them. Wise United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Oman told him: They are not prepared to be hostile to their neighbor, Iran. The pharaoh returned empty-handed. [passage omitted]

The Arab countries are aware of his role and refused to assist a regime which is an agent of Jews and imperialist ambitions - without shame. [passage omitted]

Long live the revolution, the savior of Sudan from subordination, captivity and (?humiliation). Long live the fighting people who are raising the edifice of Islam to a higher level of Islamic might. Shame on all lurking and treacherous enemies. God is great, power to Sudan.

Iranian Radio To Operate From Port Sudan

NC1805205493 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 May 93 p 9

[Text] Ghazi Salah-al-Din, minister of [Sudanese] Presidential Palace affairs, has announced that the Voice of "The Islamic Revolution" radio will start transmission from Sudan in the next few days. He said the radio's main aim is to express the [views] of the Islamic revolution in the Arab countries.

A few months ago, the "Brothers" page reported that the [Islamic] Front government agreed with Iran to install the radio in Port Sudan, using Iranian equipment and supervised by Iranian engineers. The radio will beam its transmission to the Middle East, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

GCC Adopts Resolutions on Labor, Social Cooperation

LD1705231693 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2155 GMT 17 May 93

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 17 May (SPA)—Kamil al-Salih, director general of the Executive Bureau of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Ministerial Council of Social Affairs and Labor has explained that the Council has adopted during its 11th session, which ended this week in Riyadh, a number of important resolutions aimed at strengthening the field of labor and social cooperation and integration among the GCC member states. The resolutions will contribute toward realizing the aims which had been approved by the GCC Higher Council.

Al-Salih pointed out in a press statement that among the resolutions that had been passed by the council there was one which empowered the Executive Bureau to prepare a draft scheme unifying the GCC labor relations in the labor laws and regulations and there was a draft scheme for unifying the regulations of social security laws and regulations in member states as well as publishing an Arabian Gulf guide covering all the social security terminology with the aim of bringing closer the technical terminology used in organizations and bodies of social security in member states.

He explained that the council approved the principles and the bases which relate to the joint GCC policy in the field of vocational training and to regard them as basic directives and practical basic guidelines which the member states should adopt and should endeavor to implement them as far as possible. The unified statute on safety and health at work in member states has been approved and member states have been asked to benefit from it.

GCC Ministerial Council To Meet in Riyadh 7 Jun

LD1805134993 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 May 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 18 May KUNA—KUNA has learned that the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Ministerial Council will hold its 47th session in Riyadh on the seventh of next month. The ministers are to discuss the development of the situation in the region and the world at large, and Iraq's implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions related to the war of liberation of Kuwait. They are also to discuss the meeting of the member-states of the Damascus Declaration scheduled to be held in Abu Dhabi on 22 June to discuss means of political, economic, and security cooperation between Egypt, Syria, and the six member-states of the GCC.

However it is not unlikely that the ministers will review the results of the visit of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to the member-states of the GCC, which begins today, and Iranian relations with the GCC member-states. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Mass Media Cooperation Accord Signed With Iran

LD1805101793 Tehran IRNA in English 0851 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Manama, May 18, IRNA—Bahrain welcomes promotion of mass media cooperation and signing of cultural agreements with Iran, said Bahraini Minister of Information Tariq 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad here Monday.

Al-Mu'ayyad in a meeting with managing director of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), Fereydun Vardinejad, underlined that the Bahraini people are greatly interested in receiving reliable and correct information on the events in Iran through Iranian news sources. To this end, he added, Bahrain welcomes establishment of direct contact between the mass media, including the news agencies of the two countries.

While signing a memorandum of understanding between IRNA and the Gulf News Agency (GNA), the Bahraini minister underlined that there are favorable grounds for upgrading Tehran-Manama ties in all domains and the two sides should take most advantage of the existing conditions.

Bahrain, he said, attaches special importance to its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The IRNA director pointed out that the people of Iran and Bahrain enjoy common traditional cultural, historical and religious backgrounds and called for further broadening of bilateral cooperation. He also announced IRNA's readiness to strengthen news cooperation and upgrade the possibilites for exchange of information with Bahrain.

Vardinejad who visited Bahrain to preside over the 17th meeting of the coordinating committee of the Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool (NANAP), added that broadening of cooperation between Iran and Bahrain in various fields can turn into an example for promotion of relations between Iran and other regional countries.

Meanwhile, the three-day meeting of the NANAP coordinating committee ended its work here Monday.

At the closing session of the meeting, the representatives of the 22 participating countries approved a statement in which they agreed with many proposals, including the one by IRNA to set up training courses for journalists of a number of non-aligned countries. The statement also called for further cooperation among the non-aligned news agencies.

The statement further thanked IRNA for its key role in helping Manama to well organize the meeting and also the GNA for hosting the session.

Amir, Iranian Ambassador Discuss Ties, Persian Gulf

LD1805174293 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Al-Manamah, May 18, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador in al-Manamah Javad Tork-Abadi outlined Tehran-al-Manamah bilateral ties in a meeting with the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah here today.

At the meeting also attended by Bahrain's Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Bin-Hamad Al Khalifah the two sides discussed the latest developments in the Persian Gulf as well as Islamic world and international issues of mutual interest.

Qatar

Saudi Delegation Arrives, Reviews Bilateral Ties

LD1805204893 Riyadh SPA in English 1956 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Doha, May 18, SPA—Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the Qatari Amir, received here today [Saudi] Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy premier, defence and aviation minister and inspector general, who arrived earlier today in Qatar on an official visit in response to an invitation from Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatar heir apparent and defence minister.

A meeting was held between Shaykh Khalifah Al Thani and Prince Sultan in the presence of Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Prince Faysal Bin Sa'ud Bin-Muhammad, Prince Faysal Bin Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Kingdom's Ambassador to Qatar 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Shibili, and Saudi Military Liaison Officer Brigadier 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Samir. They reviewed bilateral relations.

On arrival Prince Sultan expressed delight over visiting Qatar and described the Saudi-Qatari relations as deep-rooted and fraternal.

Prince Sultan said the two countries are keen on supporting Arab and Muslim causes and enhancing the pillars of the global peace.

"My visit to my second homeland, Qatar, which comes in response to an official invitation from my brother Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, will provide us with a good opportunity to review aspects of cooperation between the two countries, said Prince Sultan.

"I pray to the Almighty God to enable the leaderships of the two countries to serve the nations of the region as well as the Arab and Muslim nations", he added.

Meanwhile, Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz received here today at his residence Shaykh Fahim Bin Sultan al-Qasimi, the secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

They reviewed a number of issues pertaining to the GCC at the meeting attended by Prince Faysal Bin Sa'ud Bin Mohammad and Prince Faysal Bin Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Iranian Foreign Minister

LD1805160793 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1350 GMT 18 May 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 18 May (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud—God protect him—has received a message from his excellency 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

His excellency Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of Iran, handed over the message when the custodian of the two holy mosques—God support him—received him and his accompanying delegation at the royal court at al-Yamamah Palace today. [passage omitted]

Velayati Delivers Rafsanjani Message

LD1805173193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Mr. Velayati, the foreign minister, has met with King Fahd, the [Saudi] Arabian king. In the meeting, which took place in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, our country's foreign minister submitted the president's message to the Arabian king. King Fahd too, having greeted and welcomed our foreign minister and his accompanying delegation, expressed his gratitude and appreciation to our country's president for his message. He stressed the importance of expanding relations between the two Muslim and neighboring countries.

Remarking on the special role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Islamic world and the region, he described the promotion and strengthening of ties between Iran and Arabia as not only in the interest of both countries but also to the benefit of the region and the Islamic world. The Arabian king also expressed the hope of meeting with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran in the near future. Terming the current relations between the two countries as good, King Fahd added: The further expansion and deepening of bilateral ties will guarantee the common interests of the two Muslim and neighboring countries of Iran and Arabia.

In the meeting, Velayati thanked the [Saudi] Arabian Government for its sincere welcome and hospitality, and remarked on the existing potential and the various grounds between the two countries that can be used for the expansion of ties and cooperation in the spheres of economy, oil, and trade. Also in the meeting, Velayati expressed the views of the Islamic Republic of Iran's government on the important issues in the world of Islam and other issues of interest to both countries. They included the need for the Islamic countries to cooperate and pay serious attention to the current horrific genocide and the inhuman tragedy in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He added: It is of great regret that in a world in which one repeatedly hears claims of democracy and freedom, such horrific tragedies aimed at ideological cleansing take the lives of Muslim and innocent people in a spot in the heart of Europe.

Rights Group Reports '44 More' Supporters Arrested

NC1805150593 Paris AFP in English 1428 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Nicosia, May 18 (AFP)—Saudi Arabian authorities have arrested 44 backers of a recently-formed Saudi human rights movement, the London-based Liberty group said Tuesday.

Liberty, an Islamic human rights organization, said 44 more sympathisers of the Committee for the Defense of Rights Under the Shari'ah (CDRS), were arrested as part of a campaign to suppress the country's human rights movement.

Fourteen of the detentions occurred in the kingdom's Eastern Province while the remaining arrests took place in the Western Province, Liberty said in a statement faxed to AFP in Nicosia.

"The Saudi government is hereby requested to stop the harsh course of measures adopted against CDRS members and sympathisers," it said. "Liberty believes that such measures can only complicate things."

It appealed to international human rights organizations and MPs [members of parliament] in "world democracies to campaign for the release of Professor Muhammad al-Mas'ari and his detained fellow citizens, and to pressure the Saudi authorities into putting an immediate stop to their campaign against human rights activists in the kingdom."

On Monday, Liberty said that two employees of King Sa'ud University in Riyadh, where a CDRS founder taught, had been arrested amid a wave of detentions.

Citing a source close to the CDRS, it said Saudi security forces had "stormed the offices of the physics department at King Sa'ud University," where al-Mas'ari, who served as the committee's spokesman until his arrest on Saturday, taught.

The department's secretary and a technician "were arrested and taken to an unknown destination," it said.

Three CDRS members contacted from Riyadh by AFP refused Tuesday to comment on the latest developments saying they were not allowed to speak to the media by telephone.

"We have enough problems and have decided not to raise these issues with the media," the committee's lawyer Sulayman al-Rashudi said. "We can however receive written questions to which we will respond in writing."

The group's leader 'Abdallah al-Mas'ari, father of the arrested professor, said Monday that hundreds of CDRS members had been arrested, including the founders—four academicians, two attorneys and a senior civil servant—who were barred from working.

Creation of the committee was announced on May 7 by Liberty, an independent organization specializing in the defense and promotion of human rights and reform in Moslem countries.

Some 400 committee supporters have been rounded up after more than 10,000 people across Saudi Arabia signed a petition of support for the newly-formed group, according to the Cairo-based Arab Organization of Human Rights.

Riyadh has denied it was detaining any political prisoners and the country's religious leadership has argued that Saudi Arabia was already regulated by shari'ah, or Islamic law.

Struggle Front Denounces Regime Measures

JN1805170293 Baghdad INA in English 1600 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Nicosia, May 18, INA—The Preparatory Committee of the Patriotic and National Struggle Front in the Arab Peninsula has denounced continued human rights breachings by the Saudi regime and the dissolution of the Committee for the Defense of Rights Under the Shari'ah in Saudi Arabia.

The front spokesman said in a press release in Nicosia today that these suppressive measures came following the growing wrath in Saudi Arabia and the opposition of the regime there since the invasion of the foreign troops the holy land to launch barbaric aggression on Iraq.

The spokesman condemned the U.S. policy that alleges protecting the human rights while it brushes aside these rights in Saudi Arabia and the U.S. Administration pursues double-standard policies.

Opposition Figure on U.S. Talks, Saddam's Attacks

NC1905071293 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 19 May 93

[Interview with Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum, member of the Unified Iraqi National Congress' (UINC) Presidential Council, in London, by correspondent Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, from the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Let us discuss the Iraqi opposition leaders' meeting, which ended a short time ago. Can you tell us the most important issues discussed at the meeting?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] Saudi Ambassador Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan told the UINC delegation in Washington last week that King Fahd, the custodian of the two holy mosques, was inviting the delegation to Saudi Arabia to discuss the situation in Iraq and the country's future. The delegation gratefully accepted. The UINC presidential council and executive committee decided to meet in London after returning from Washington. The meeting was held yesterday and lasted until 2230. It will continue today, discussing the visit to Saudi Arabia and other issues that concern us and that interest Saudi Arabia regarding Iraq's future. The meeting is also discussing a visit to Kuwait, because Kuwaiti Ambassador Shaykh Muhammad Nasir al-Sabah told the delegation that Kuwaiti Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd wanted to invite the UINC presidential council to Kuwait. This invitation is being discussed along with the issues that ought to be discussed there.

[Al-Jundi] In light of the Iraqi opposition's recent efforts and the delegation's visit to the United States and its meetings with U.S. officials, how do you assess the visit to the United States?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] The UINC delegation's visit to Washington and its meetings with Vice President Al Gore, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and National Security Adviser Anthony Lake showed they are very interested in the Iraqi cause and in the case of Saddam Husayn, who has become a burden for Iraq, the Middle East, and the international community. The secretary of state told us that the new U.S. Administration has decided to contact the United Nations to form a commission to investigate Saddam's war crimes and his practice of collective repression in Iraq. This is a good initiative, and we hope it clarifies the new U.S. view of the Iraqi cause. Vice President Gore also stressed to us that there will be no laxity, dialogue, normalization, or dealings with Saddam. This is an important development because it clarifies U.S. policy toward Iraq and the existing regime even further. We hope these results will be positive and fruitful and will materialize quickly for the sake of the aggravated situation in Iraq and the abnormal and grave conditions of the Iraqi people.

[Al-Jundi] Recent reports say the Iraqi opposition is holding active and continuous contacts with key figures within the Iraqi Armed Forces.

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] I can confirm that many of the Iraqi Armed Forces—I mean the Iraqi Army, not Saddam's henchmen—are trying to contact the Iraqi opposition and are ready to hold a dialogue with it. This is true in that the regime relies on its special army and not on the Iraqi Army to launch offensives. The Iraqi Army belongs to Iraq, supports the Iraqis, and tries to overthrow this regime.

[Al-Jundi] Saddam Husayn's attacks on the sons of the Iraqi people obviously are not only confined to the north, where the Kurds represent the majority, but also extend to south. This shows that Saddam is launching attacks against the Iraqi people in the north and the south. What is the ideal strategy to curb Baghdad ruler Saddam Husayn's inhumane behavior?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] First, Saddam Husayn's regime will never resort to applying justice in Iraq. The regime's main goal is to persecute the Iraqis. No region has been spared the regime's brutality. The Iraqi regime's attacks have reached the center of Iraq. Saddam Husayn often tried to dispatch troops from the special guard to Mosul. He arrested many tribal figures, whose fate remains unknown.

Areas are besieged in central Iraq and in Baghdad. The injustice is not confined to the north and south. I strongly believe that the situation in the south is more serious and tragic. It is extremely grave and painful and not just because of the presence of Saddam's forces. There is also the economic blockade in the south, especially in the marshlands, which have become a cell opposing Saddam. The tragedy is great in the south due to the economic siege and bad health conditions. But I would like to assert that the hand-in-hand strategy of the people in the north and south, supported by central Iraq, will overthrow Saddam. Oppression will not last. We are confident that Iraqi hands will bring about Saddam's collapse, God willing.

Opposition Issues Statement on General's Assassination

NC1805171793 Paris AFP in English 1627 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Paris, May 18 (AFP)—A retired senior Iraqi officer was assassinated at his Baghdad home over the weekend by members of President Saddam Husayn's special guard, an Iraqi opposition movement said Tuesday.

General Thabit Sultan al-Tikriti, who was killed Saturday, was "one of the most brilliant Iraqi officers and the key aid to the chief of staff during the war with Iran," said the Iraqi Assembly for National Understanding (RENDI-al-Wifaq) [spelling, capitalization as received] in a statement received by AFP.

"Towards the end of the war, he was accused with 70 other officers of an attempted coup and was jailed before being freed after the end of the (eight-year) Gulf war," in 1988, the London-based group said.

It slammed "this criminal act by Saddam Husayn's regime."

The statement did not say if the general was related to the president, who is known as Saddam Husayn al-Tikriti, in reference to his home town of Tikrit north of Baghdad.

Al-Wifaq is led by Salah al-'Ali, a former Iraqi minister of information.

British MP Regrets UK Participation in 'Aggression'

JN1805164993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak, health minister and acting minister of labor and social affairs, today met with a delegation of the British House of Commons representing the opposition Labor Party. The minister reviewed the colonialist plots and schemes, led by world Zionism, aimed at encroaching on the unity of Iraq and its people. These plots and schemes began with the chapter of the unjust blockade, under which thousands of Iraqi children, women, and old men suffer.

Tam Dalyell, head of the delegation, expressed regret over Britain's participation in the aggression against Iraq, which he described as an inhumane act that was targeted against defenseless children, women, and old men. He also expressed the delegation's desire to offer assistance and overcome difficulties facing children in particular.

Minister Returns From Jordan, Tunisia Visits

JN1805123993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 18 May 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 18 May (INA)—'Abd-al-Sattar Ahmad al-Ma'ini, minister of transport and communications, returned to Baghdad last night, concluding a several-day visit to Tunisia and Jordan. While in Tunisia, the minister led the Iraqi delegation to the general assembly meetings of the Arab Space Communications Corporation, Arabsat, held there on 10 May. [passage omitted]

In a statement to INA, he explained that the Iraqi delegation submitted a working paper on the need to resume the communications service with the Iraqi ground station, Nasr. This service was suspended on the pretext that Iraq owed money to Arabsat. The Iraqi working paper explained that the suspension of this service was illegal. The paper also explained the economic damage caused to Arabsat as a result of this measure, al-Ma'ini added.

It is noteworthy that Iraq is linked to the Arabsat system through the Nasr ground station near Baghdad, which was totally destroyed during the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression against the Iraqi people. However, the Iraqi technical cadres managed to reconstruct and operate this station in 1991. [passage omitted]

U.S. Air Force Study Said To Admit 'Big Failure'

JN1605144893 Baghdad INA in English 1215 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 16, INA—Since the beginning of the US aggression on Iraq on January 17, 1991 and the issuance of the first communique, it was clear that much exaggeration and lies and delusion in addition to falsification of facts and realities were the main characteristics that prevailed on drafting of this communique and the following communiques, an article in AL-THAWRAH daily said today.

The article added as it is customary in wars many of the facts would recede amidst the tumult and noise the war machine creates and before the smearing and confusion operations by the hostile media and political contacts. But this would remain a temporary recession and facts would once again emerge and come to surface.

An American study conducted by a committee chaired by a professor from Harvard University reached a conclusion stating the failure of the American aircraft during the aggression in destroying the surface-to-surface missiles launchers.

This fact contained in the study comes in contradiction with the daily communiques issued by the command of the alliance forces and claiming the allied aircraft destruction of more than 80 percent of Iraqi missiles launchers during the early hours of the aggression.

This new American study prepared for the US Air Force, while admitting the big failure of the US aircraft in this respect, confirms that the facts that Washington and the capitals allied with it tried to hide from the world public opinion would ultimately impose themselves and come to the surface.

The article concluded that as much as the aggression of the 30 states on Iraq had failed in realising its early objectives, it has also failed in achieving its following goals when the Iraqis have been capable of reconstruction and go ahead in the march of building, despite the iniquitous blockade imposed on Iraq, with much vitality, efforts and perseverance.

Visiting U.S. Chaldean Union Chairman on Clinton's Stand

JN1605163493 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 16 May 93

[Tet] Baghdad, May 16, INA—The suffering of Iraqi people because of the UN trade sanctions should end immediately, Mr. Salman Youna, chairman of the Chaldean Federation of America said.

Mr. Youna told THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER that US President Bill Clinton feels bad and concerned about the people in Iraq.

He said he has met President Clinton directly after his assumption of presidency. "I was one of 40 individuals who were invited to meet the president in the town hall of Detriot. My question to him was on Iraq and the UN sanctions imposed on its people," he said.

Mr. Youna went on to say that though there is a lot of pressure on the US President from other countries and groups of interests, "his response made me feel optimistic about the future of Iraq," he said.

Mr. Youna, an Iraqi expatriate, has recently visited his motherland leading a 35-member delegation, and brought a donation of medicines to Iraqis who suffer from the 34-month-old blockade.

According to Mr Youna, the Chaldean community abroad has spared no effort to show the real image of Iraq. "The US Administration and media tell people only what they want them to know," he explained.

"We have held meetings with congressmen explaining Iraq's thinking and mentality, and we are struggling to convince them that the sanctions are unjust and inhuman as Iraq implemented most of the security council resolutions," he added.

During his two-week visit to Iraq, Mr. Youna met with a number of senior Iraqi officials including Deputy Premier Tariq 'Aziz and Speaker of the National Assembly Sa'di Mahdi Salih. "The meetings were fruitful and they offered support to our humanitarian mission," he commented.

Mr. Youna has been appointed recently by the US Senate as a member of citizens' merit committee to interview and recommend candidates for federal judges and U.S district attorneys for the State of Michigan.

The Chaldean Federation of America comprises 14 societies and has in its membership all the 75,000 Iraqi Chaldeans who live in America.

"They work voluntarily to enhance the culture and education of Iraqi community in the USA," Mr. Youna said.

Founded in 1980, the federation has printed over 5,000 copies of educational pamphlets and brochures to give information about Chaldean history and culture.

The federation has also produced an educational video for this ethnic group.

Moledet Submits No-Confidence Motion on Peace Talks

TA1805133693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] The Moledet Knesset faction has submitted a no-confidence motion against the government because of the failure of the peace talks in Washington. Moledet claims that the talks have failed despite the concessions made by the government, and it fears that more concessions are forthcoming. Yesterday the National Religious Party submitted a no-confidence motion over the government's failure to deal with the nurses crisis.

Rabin: Israel Seeks Compromises, Not Blackmail

TA1805174293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today said that Israel wants to make compromises, but will not give in to blackmail. Israel is searching for mutual compromises which will provide peace and security without harboring any threats of terrorism. If Israel will find partners on the other side, they will find it open-hearted and with an outstretched hand.

Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that Mr. Rabin made these remarks in Daliyat al-Karmil, in a ceremony inaugurating a memorial site to the 237 Druze who died in Israel's wars. The prime minister added that none of the Israeli Governments have done enough to narrow the gaps between the Jews and the Druze, and promised to work for equality between the communities, even if this takes several years to accomplish.

Further Reportage on Portfolio Allocations

Rabin Seeks Knesset Endorsement

TA1905103093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 19 May 93

[Text] About 30 minutes ago, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin asked the Knesset to endorse the deposit of the interior, education, and culture portfolios with him and to appoint Shulamit Aloni and Arye Der'i ministers without portfolio. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir notes that the prime minister did not specify the time limits of the portfolios' deposit.

The Knesset is now holding a factional debate at the end of which the plenum will vote on the portfolio deposit motion.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 19 May adds: "It was decided following telephone interviews with the cabinet ministers that Mikha Goldman from Labor and Rabbi Moshe Maya from SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] will be appointed deputy education ministers under the prime minister who will hold the portfolio. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Mikha Goldman's appointment was approved unanimously while Moshe Maya's was opposed by the Meretz ministers. The appointments will be officially announced at the Knesset after the vote on the depositing of the portfolios with the prime minister."]

Knesset Approves Rabin Request

TA1905111793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 May 93

[Text] The Knesset plenum has endorsed the deposit of the interior, education, and culture portfolios with the Prime Minister's Office. The motion was supported by 59 votes and opposed by 37. Degel Hatora Knesset Member [MK] Ravitz abstained, but the rest of his party MK's voted in support of the motion.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that after the vote, the prime minister announced that MK's Mikha Goldman from Labor and Moshe Maya from SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] had been appointed deputy education and culture ministers.

Search Conducted Amid 'Unconfirmed' Kidnap Reports

NC1805212993 London MBC Television in Arabic 2108 GMT 18 May 93

[Mahir Shalabi dispatch from Jerusalem]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] We have received reports from the occupied Gaza Strip tonight that Israeli special forces raided a house in Jabaliya camp where people had gathered to offer condolences. At least two Palestinians were killed and scores others were injured in the raid. The Israeli forces imposed a curfew on the area and began a large-scale search amid unconfirmed reports that two Israeli soldiers from the special units have been kidnapped.

King Husayn Commen's on Peace Process, Democracy

JN1805183093 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said: The owners of a just and powerful cause are not afraid of going anywhere to defend it and to speak the word of truth. Hence, the decision to attend the Madrid conference, which was adopted on the largest possible scale and in which various schools of thought and trends were involved.

His majesty the king added: The peace we are pursuing is a peace which future generations can accept, protect, and defend once we are gone. Such peace must be a viable one. From the outset, it was clear that the path of peace was going to be difficult, long, and arduous.

His majesty the king went on to say: We have a duty that goes beyond our persons. This is a duty toward future generations. We have a duty to do the impossible to save the kinfolk in their occupied homeland so that they may regain their rights on their territory and national soil.

In a speech delivered today when he received officers of the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA] units stationed in Jordan, who congratulated his majesty on the 40th anniversary of the assumption of his constitutional powers, his majesty the king said: We will continue to hold out here and to confront any dangers that could threaten us, and consequently threaten the Arab heartland. We will demonstrate manly patience. However, we will not despair. As for challenges, they will only strengthen our determination to hold our heads high and not to bow to anyone except God.

His Majesty King Husayn added: We only believe in our duty, which renders us a target for some. We believe that this march should not be linked to anybody. We also believe that this march must emanate from the hearts and reflect the feelings and trends prevailing within this family. This march must be in line with our belief in the Arab individual's right to lead a free and decent life, to express himself freely, and to play his role in the development process.

His majesty the king went on to say: There are some people who act as if they own the earth as well as all that is on, above, and under it. Likewise, there are some people who claim that their citizens exercise all their rights. However, events have shown that their statements were exaggerated.

His majesty said: We beseech God to help us shoulder the trust and fulfill the duty. If we succeed, success will then go beyond Jordan to reach the entire Arab and Muslim world and set a new example of how things ought to be; and if we fail, God forbid, the flame will be extinguished.

His majesty asserted the need to move forward. He said: Our states should be states of institutions that are capable of knitting healthy and strong ties among the countries of the nation. As for us, we live here as one family that exemplifies Arab unity.

His majesty said: We have achieved for our country political pluralism, democracy, respect for human rights and dignity. What matters is the judgment future generations will pass on us. We hope it will be in our favor.

He said: It is our fate as Palestinians and Jordanians to be one family and to stand on our feet and persevere. We have endured a great deal, and this is a source of honor for us, despite the fact that our suffering is caused by friends more than by enemies. The individual is the essential thing and we should concentrate on him more and more. If the individual is prepared, circumstances will be bettered. This is the essential thing, not weapons, and we all share this conviction.

His majesty expressed gratitude for the gift presented to him. He said: The Holy Koran is the dearest thing we hold in our minds and souls, and it is always on our minds.

His majesty asked the PLA forces commander to convey his greetings to his brother His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine. He said: We live the circumstance together at all times, day and night, and through the challenge which we have to face, God willing, together.

He said: The suffering of the kinfolk, brothers, and beloved ones in Jerusalem and on every inch of the occupied territories lives on in our daily lives here in this part of the great homeland. We, thank God, are a single family that understands the size of the challenge and threat.

Reportage on Army Operations in al-Minyah

Seals Off Area

NC1605061993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] The Lebanese Army since this morning has sealed off the al-Minyah area in northern Lebanon. The Army is carrying out a wide-scale campaign to arrest a number of wanted persons. The 10th Brigade, led by Colonel Ahmad Subra, is enforcing the military cordon around the area. Colonel Rashid Afyuni, head of the Intelligence Department-Northern Branch, is in charge of the sweeps.

Some 49 people are on the wanted list, and 15 have been arrested so far including Khalid al-Badin, Walid al-Badin, Fadi 'Awad, Muhammad 'Id, and Ahmad 'Alam-al-Din.

To facilitate the sweeps, all roads leading to al-Minyah have been sealed off, including the coastal road between Tripoli and Syria.

Arrests 58, Seizes Weapons

NC1605083393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 May 93

[Statement issued by the Army Command's Guidance Directorate]

[Text] In implementation of the cabinet decision and in continuation of the Army Command's measures to control the security situation, arrest wanted persons, and seize contraband, Lebanese Army troops drawn from the 10th Brigade, commando units, and the Intelligence Directorate-Northern Branch carried out widespread sweeps this morning in the al-Minyah area of north Lebanon. They were supported by the Syrian Arab Forces and their security branch in Lebanon. The sweeps have resulted in the arrest of 58 wanted persons and the confiscation of quantities of weapons, ammunition, and contraband.

The Army Command will continue its measures to consolidate security in all Lebanese areas and to end all deviant activities in the areas in which lawbreakers take refuge.

Hizballah Reports Resistance Operations in South

NC1905065593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 May 93

[Text] Islamic Resistance heroes detonated an explosive charge near an Israeli mechanized patrol on the al-'Ayshiyah-al-Rayhan road. An Islamic Resistance statement said the explosion destroyed an armored vehicle and killed its crew.

At 1710 yesterday, resistance fighters detonated an explosive charge near a Zionist patrol on the Tallusah road leading to the positions of the occupation forces, who used machine guns and rockets to rake Qabrikhah, Wadi al-Suluqi, and the outskirts of al-Qantarah.

The occupation forces shelled Bra'shit, damaging two houses and the government school. This was accompanied by overflights by enemy helicopters.

Our correspondent in the south reports that a Zionist mechanized patrol comprising two tanks and a truck and led by infantry troops advanced to the outskirts of Bra'shit and raked the valleys and heights in the area.

The correspondent also reported Zionist enemy troop and mechanized concentrations and tank movements seen yesterday evening on the al-Radar, al-Rayhan, and al-'Ayshiyah hills.

Clashes Abate; Israeli Military Movement Reported

NC1805114893 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 18 May 93

[Excerpts] The shelling and counter shelling in Iqlim al-Tuffah abated at 1200 today. Extreme tension and calm now prevail in the area following the clashes that raged all this morning between the Israeli forces and the Islamic Resistance. [passage omitted]

A security source in the south has reported that Israeli military vehicles are assembling in the area between Markabah and al-'Abbas.

Amal Said Ready for Prisoner Exchange With Israel

NC1805180693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] REUTER cited Islamic security sources in Beirut today that the Amal Movement is willing to exchange prisoners with Israel after the latter ascertains that two bodies held by the movement are indeed those of two missing Israeli soldiers. Bernard Pfieffer, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] delegation in Beirut, told REUTER: I can confirm that two ICRC medical examiners checked the bodies of the two soldiers and were present when the five female prisoners were released.

The sources said Amal expects the examination to provide evidence that the bodies are those of two Israeli soldiers so that negotiations for the release of Lebanese prisoners held by Israel and the South Lebanese Army can begin.

The Israeli army announced today that the two ICRC physicians examined the two bodies held by Amal, but have not yet decided whether they are the two missing Israeli soldiers.

Sweden To Transfer Soldiers From Lebanon to Bosnia

NC1805115093 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] The Swedish Government has decided to transfer its soldiers operating with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon to the international peace forces in the former Yugoslavia and to transfer its soldiers in Cyprus to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Gulf 'Indignation' Seen Behind Pressure on Media

NC1805145293 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 11 May 93 p 2

[Article by Ibrahim al-Amin]

[Excerpt] Information Minister Michel Samahah's obvious activity to provide a legal framework to organize printed and electronic media coincided with leaked reports that a number of Arab and Gulf countries recently have told visiting Lebanese delegations that they fear the Lebanese media may reflect negatively on Lebanon's relations with a number of fraternal and friendly countries and on Lebanon's image in the world, at a time when the country is searching for economic and political aid.

Sources familiar with the atmosphere of the visits say that the Gulf capitals showed many "signs of indignation" at the publication in Lebanese media of views hostile to those of some Arab regimes—views that sometimes include direct criticism of Arab presidents and kings. This prompted Samahah to emphasize on many occasions that general law and publications law do not allow this, and that the government will punish every media institution that "harms the state's relations with friends and brothers."

If the government is using this as an excuse to pressure certain media organs that oppose the government's policy and its way of running things, it is obviously an exaggeration to blame the Lebanese media for Lebanon not receiving assistance from those countries. Everybody knows that the decision to provide assistance is directly linked to political issues related to the Arab-Israeli negotiations, which are now at a critical stage in terms of basic options.

Some people go even further, arguing that the renewed talk about the Lebanese media coincides with the progress of the peace process. There is wager on the upcoming 10th round, expected to be held after U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region. The American secretary will try to have in his tour open, encouraging working groups that would engage in discussion for several weeks, or possibly months.

Those who believe in this say that the Lebanese media are still outside any framework to control their movement and position toward the negotiations. They say that some formula must be reached to render the media less effective in case there is wide opposition to any Arab-Israeli peace agreement and a rejection movement is formed. [passage omitted]

Al-Zu'bi Addresses Arab Investment Conference

JN1705164093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 May 93

[Excerpts] Under the auspices of President Hafiz al-Asad, the fifth conference of businessmen and investors was inaugurated this morning at the Conference Hall in the Ummayyad Palace under the slogan of "Arab Investments and the Challenges of the 1990's." The conference is being held in cooperation with the Federation of Arab Chambers of Trade, Industry, and Agriculture, the secretariat general of the Arab League, and the Union of Syrian Trade Chambers.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi represented President Hafiz al-Asad in the inauguration of the conference. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister al-Zu'bi delivered the opening speech for the conference's sponsor. He began by conveying President Hafiz al-Asad's greetings to all participants in this important economic meeting, and his wishes that the meeting will be successful in realizing its objective. [passage omitted]

The prime minister spoke about the geographic, political, and commercial importance of the Arab homeland, stressing that in both good and bad times, Arabs need each other. He referred to the important role which the businessmen, investors and owners of economic and financial establishments can play in entrenching the economic basis that can restore to the Arab nation its historic and cultural role among nations.

The prime minister called for embarking on a new march, no matter how small the start, and pointed out the dangers which Arab funds face outside the Arab homeland. There, Arab funds face the danger of erosion or heavy losses as a result of financial shocks which hit financial markets. He stressed that the Arab world is the safest place for Arab money, and that the most beneficial field is the common Arab market, something which it is high time to set up to challenge other markets.

The prime minister spoke about the attention Syria gives to investments and their instruments and said: Syria has given great attention to investments and their instruments, and much legislation has been passed since 1970 to encourage the Syrian and Arab capital to perform an important economic task for our development policy. The objective of this legislation was to introduce continuous positive developments to create an effective investment environment. [passage omitted]

The prime minister spoke about international changes and the political developments in the region and the role that Syria played—and is playing—under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, to heal the rift, unite Arab ranks, strengthen the points of agreement, eliminate division, and create the circumstances that help Arab solidarity and make cooperation an easier task and objective.

Al-Zu'bi also spoke about Israel's maneuvers to evade the requisites of peace. He stressed that Israel does not view peace from a just and comprehensive vision but through a pure Zionist vision. The international community has become aware that for Israel's expansionist policy real peace constitutes an essential contradiction.

Al-Zu'bi said that despite the various obstacles and difficulties that Israel raised—and is still raising—Syria and the Arabs have left no chance for Israel to abort this process, or to derail it from its basic framework, out of eagerness to continue the process to implement the resolutions of the international legitimacy, which basically call for full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and securing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The prime minister stressed that entrenching the unified Arab position on the peace talks is what guarantees the continuation of effective confrontation of the Israeli policy and all its designs that are based on the Arab weakness and its political, security, and economic results. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic Relations Established With Georgia

JN1805172193 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1640 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Moscow, 18 May (SANA)—The Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Georgia today signed an agreement establishing diplomatic relations.

The agreement was signed by the ambassadors of the two countries in Moscow, Muhammad 'Isam al-Na'ib and Valerian Advadze.

Bangladesh

Continued Chinese Assistance for Defense Assured

BK1805135393 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] The visiting seven-member Air Force delegation of the People's Liberation Army [PLA] of China, led by Lieutenant General Cao Shuangming, called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban [President's House] in Dhaka today. During the talks, President Biswas appreciated the assistance and cooperation given by China for the socioeconomic development of Bangladesh. He also expressed the hope that this visit of the Chinese delegation will have a great impact in further deepening the existing excellent bilateral relations between the two countries.

General Cao Shuangming expressed his thanks to the president and the Government of Bangladesh for the cordial reception and hospitality extended to his delegation.

Lieutenant General Cao Shuangming also called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in Dhaka today. During the meeting, the PLA commander assured the prime minister that China would continue to provide all-out cooperation and assistance for building Bangladesh's defense sector, particularly the Air Force. He said that Bangladesh and China are bound by close and traditional ties and expressed the hope that this relationship would be further strengthened in the future through cooperation in different sectors. He also conveyed the greetings of the Chinese president and prime minister to Begum Khaleda Zia. Mr. Cao thanked the prime minister for the warm hospitality shown to him in Bangladesh.

Begum Zia also thanked Mr. Cao for making his first foreign trip to Bangladesh after assuming the charge of commander of the PLA. She said that Bangladesh is proud of the progress achieved by China during the past few years. The prime minister said that the deep and traditional relationship which existed between the two countries was further strengthened by the visit of the late President Ziaur Rahman to China. Begum Zia also recalled the warm reception given to her during her visit to China. She also conveyed her greetings to the Chinese president and prime minister and expressed the hope that the Chinese premier will soon recover from his illness.

Among others, the Air Force chief of Bangladesh, Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Chowdhury; and the principal staff officer to the prime minister, M.S.A. Bhuiyan, were present on the occasion.

'Imperfections' in Economic Sectors Discussed

BK1805102393 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 May 93 p 7

[Text] The better performance in the current financial year is mainly attributable to bumper rice crop which is estimated at over 9.5 million [metric] tons. But this encouraging production particularly in food crop sub-sector has led to a price-crunch at the growers level, reflecting marketing problems, storage difficulties, poor hoarding or retention capacity, disorganised trading activities and other imperfections.

According to available statistics the overall economic growth performance, as measured by real or inflation-adjusted value of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), in fiscal 1992-93, is quite credit- worthy. On the basis of the performance trends in key sectors in the first half of the fiscal year (July-December, 1992), the growth rate is likely to be around 5 percent. Real GDP growth was about 4 percent in 1991-92.

It may be mentioned the Government's policy measures for macroeconomic stabilisation have yielded good results, but micro- level performance, representing ground level economic situation facing individual enterprises remains lacklustre. Consequently, much of the beneficial impact of the Government's macro economic achievements continue to be eroded. To stimulate micro-level operations, the Government recently has taken moves which are of monetary in nature. While such measures are welcome, these can be counter-productive if the overall situation does not improve quickly.

It is well known that in the last few years there have been persistent shortfalls in ADP [Annual Development Program] utilisation. In our country, where public investments provide more than 50 percent of the gross national investment, decline in public investments quite naturally causes economic recession which, in turn, affects business and industry. It is, therefore, essential that implementation of annual development programmes is taken more seriously.

In the industrial sector, the production performance has not been upto expectations in most sub-sectors. Most of the nationalised industrial units, particularly those in jute, textiles, and sugar are faced with the problems of unsold accumulated stocks, worsening their liquidity situation.

The overall losses of the public sector will remain at high levels as before. Most of the private sector industrial units are faced with a sluggish situation, showing either decline in growth or only marginal improvement. The sluggishness of the manufacturing industry can be attributed to a general weak aggregate demand, free flow of smuggled goods, tariff and duty anomalies. Labour unrest, work stoppages, localised law and order problems remain destabilising factors. Power failures and power shortage pose widespread problems.

Export receipts in the first half of current fiscal year totalled U.S. $1205.72 million compared to U.S. $907.21 million in the corresponding period last year. Though the earnings recorded a 32.92 percent growth during the period under report, these were 10.32 percent lower than the target.

What perhaps is of more concern is that export competitiveness of most products has continued to suffer. Average unit prices of export products, both primary and manufactured, have declined. The price decline was 3 percent for

primary commodities and 11 percent for manufactured goods in July-December, 1992. And, nothing has so far been done to compensate the exporters and to enable them to make sustained efforts to boost export earnings which is one major goal of the Government's policies.

Exchange rate situation affects both export-oriented and import substitution industries. Our exports stand marginalised by currency value adjustments made by our neighbouring countries in the recent months in respect of items in which we compete against them. Quick and correct decision is required in exchange rate so as to restore the competitive edge which we used to have until recently. In any economy seeking industrial breakthrough, prices of non-tradables (wage) have to be contained in relation to tradable goods (import and export products). In our country, the opposite is being done in the recent years, as the cost of labour (non-tradables) has been raised. As a result, not only the exporters have been affected but the domestic tradable goods have also become less competitive vis-a- vis imports from other countries. Value of non-tradables (wages) must be contained if manufacturing activities have to be profitable.

Different sectors of the economy are found to be in a stalemate, reflecting inefficient use of resources, and new investments also do not come forward. It becomes clear that there is something fundamentally wrong in the economy. From this view-point, to make the recent moves for reduction of interest rate, withdrawal of credit restrictions etc. productive, other issues like labour, tariff, law and order situation must be tackled on a priority basis. Micro-level situation will improve when the mis-match in the balance of power between tbe labour and capital, handicaps such as tariff anomalies and micro policy distortions in vital issues like exchange rate are removed.

India

Further Reportage on Israeli Foreign Minister Visit

Peres on Peace Talks, Terrorism

BK1805131493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] The Israeli foreign minister, Mr. Shim'on Peres, says his country will not play any negative role in the ongoing West Asia peace talks. Addressing a crowded press conference in New Delhi today, he said the best solution to the issue is a confederation of Jordanians and Palestinians. He asserted that Israel is bound to honor this commitment. He said his government has stopped new settlements and has agreed on many issues to create conditions conducive for talks.

Replying to a question, he said India's good relations with the Arabs is a plus point and Israel likes New Delhi to have the best of relations with the West.

The Israeli foreign minister called upon all countries to combine together in the fight against terrorism. The states which support terrorism should be exposed and subjected to economic boycott. He said Israel stands for the unity and integrity of India, and bilateral issues between India and Pakistan should be sorted out on the basis of the Simla Agreement.

On the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the Israeli foreign minister said that the treaty cannot be effective without proper verification. Some of the countries which signed the treaty have bluffed the world about possession of nuclear arsenals by them.

Asked whether India and Israel are shying away on a defense pact, Mr. Peres said while the two countries are trying to cooperate to end terrorism, such military alliance is not necessary as it can be misinterpreted. Mr. Peres said India and Israel have opened a new chapter in their relations and there is great scope for cooperation in fields including trade, electronics, biotechnology and in checking desertification. The joint fund suggested by him will provide an opportunity for scientists of the two countries to work together in many areas.

On U.S. Decision on Pakistan

BK1805154893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 May 93

[Excerpts] The Israeli foreign minister, Mr. Shim'on Peres, says that his government will support any U.S. decision to declare Pakistan a terrorist state. Addressing a crowded press conference in New Delhi today, he said that Israel greatly respects the judgment of the United States on this issue. [passage omitted]

India and Israel signed on all four agreements and two memorandums of understanding in culture, tourism, aviation, science and technology, and economic cooperation.

The visiting Israeli foreign minister, Mr. Peres, also met the leader of the opposition, Mr. L.K. Advani, in New Delhi today. During their meeting, the two leaders emphasized the need to increase bilateral cooperation.

Rao, Peres Discuss Terrorism

BK1905041693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 19 May 93

[Text] India and Israel have emphasized the need for developed nations to address the problem of terrorism with determination. The danger posed by terrorism came up for discussion when the Israeli foreign minister, Mr. Shim'on Peres, called the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi yesterday. The two leaders discussed the changed international situation and the opportunities arising from the end of the cold war. Mr. Narasimha Rao said it has given an impetus to the peace process in West Asia. It also resulted in India's establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel and now New Delhi can play a meaningful role in the West Asia peace process.

Police Conduct Antiterrorist Raids in Kashmir

BK1805162293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] In the capital, police have arrested three militants belonging to an outlawed militant organization. A sizeable

quantity of deadly RDX explosives, a timing device, and a semi-automatic pistol have been recovered. During interrogation it was revealed that they were expecting another cache of sophisticated arms from their militant cadres in Punjab.

In Jammu and Kashmir, a hard-core Pakistani militant Tipu Sultan was killed in an encounter with security forces at Sumbal in Baramula District today. He was operating as the self-styled military advisor of an outlawed organization. Some arms and ammunition were recovered by the security forces after the encounter. Meanwhile, another Pak-trained militant was killed in an encounter at village Niba in Pulwama District.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the curfew was reimposed in Kishtwar town of Doda District this afternoon following some fresh incidents of violence. One person was killed and five injured when police opened fire at an unruly mob which manhandled members of the mahila [women] police and also tried to snatch weapons. According to an official spokesman, the incident occurred around 1 p.m. Six persons were injured in the firing and one succumbed to his injuries later. Four seriously injured persons have been airlifted to Jammu.

Rao Orders Review of Arrests During Riots

BK1805155293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] The prime minister has ordered a review of all arrests and detentions made in the wake of communal riots since December last. Disclosing this, the official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao has been concerned over reports that several persons are being detained without formal charge sheets. As a first step the Center has asked six states and the Union Territory of Delhi to furnish details of all the arrests and detentions made in connection with communal violence. The states are Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Karnataka. The Home Ministry will scrutinize the information and will review the feasibility of releasing all those not connected with serious offences and also persons taken into preventive custody.

Plot To Topple Tamil Nadu Government Claimed

BK1805095193 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 2 May 93 p 1

[Text] Madras, 2 May—The All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam [AIADMK] has alleged that the central government is scheming to dismiss the Jayalalitha government.

S.D. Somasundaram, deputy general secretary of the AIADMK [and a cabinet minister], has overtly issued a statement alleging that the central government, with the connivance of the Central Bureau of Investigation [CBI], is taking steps to dislodge the Jayalalitha government by bringing false charges against her [the chief minister] on the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] issue. This is the first time a senior minister of the Jayalalitha government has leveled such serious allegations against the central government. Chief Minister Jayalalitha has received complete information about the covert action being taken by the central government with the connivance of the CBI. Somasundaram has also said that some officials of the Tamil Nadu police department also have a hand in the conspiracy. In his statement, Somasundaram has expressed the hope that, however, with the help of the people, the chief minister will foil the designs. The following is the statement that raised a storm in the political circles of Tamil Nadu yesterday:

Chief Minister Jayalalitha has already made a statement in the state assembly about the conspiracy behind the release by some persons of the TADA [Terrorism and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act] detainees, who were being taken to Pattukkottai court. She also announced that a magisterial inquiry would be held by a high court judge on the background of the incident and on the full details of the case. Recently, some politicians like Vazhappadi Ramamurthy [Tamil Nadu Congress-I leader], S.R. Balasubramaniam [opposition leader in the Tamil Nadu assembly], and Subramaniam Swamy [Janata Party leader] are making baseless allegations that in Tamil Nadu, the movements and activities of the LTTE are again on the rise. They have been repeatedly issuing baseless and whimsical statements that the chief minister is extending indirect support to the LTTE and is encouraging their activities in the state, that the LTTE and the AIADMK have business ties, and that the chief minister is striking some underhanded dealings with the LTTE due to fearing for her life. As if to confirm it, the Mamandoor incident [wherein some unknown persons released LTTE detainees by force from police custody] occurred on the night of 29 April. S.R. Balasubramaniam has spoken about the involvement of government officials in the incident. A rough analysis will reveal that all this is a premeditated conspiracy to defame the present government.

Moreover, we have received a report which causes us concern. The CBI, which is working under the jurisdiction of the central government, is not discharging its duties independently and is functioning as the puppet of the central government. In Tamil Nadu, some LTTE members, who are lodged in prisons under various charges, are being met by CBI officials. They compel the LTTE detainees to sign false statements prepared by them which state that Ms. Jayalalitha had secretly met with the LTTE detainees, has been extending all necessary help and had struck a deal with them, paved the way for the escape of some detainees as per the deal, and promised assistance to others to escape in a like manner. At the same time, the central government-controlled television and radio are giving wide coverage to the statements of leaders like Vazhappadi Ramamurthy and S.R. Balasubramaniam who say that there is some nexus between Jayalalitha and the LTTE. Some newspapers are also giving wide coverage to their statements.

Considering all these things, it seems that the central government is preparing the ground for dismissing the Tamil Nadu government after leveling false charges against the chief minister.

Everyone in the country knows that Jayalalitha has brought an end to the gun culture in Tamil Nadu and to

LTTE domination in the state. The chief minister is also fully aware that a few officials in the state police department are also collaborating with the central government and are working against the Tamil Nadu government. The chief minister, who has the people's power on her side, will defeat all these conspiracies.

Court Partly Suspends Notification Banning Party

BK1905032493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 19 May 93

[Text] The Allahabad High Court has partly suspended the notification declaring the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] an unlawful association till the declaration is confirmed by the Unlawful Activities Prevention Tribunal by order and is duly published in the official gazette. An interim order to this effect was passed yesterday by Justice Anshuman Singh and Mr. Justice D.P.S. Chauhan on a writ petition filed by a retired Professor of Chemistry of the Allahabad University. The petition challenges the constitutional validity of the government notification banning the RSS.

Iran

Velayati Views Central Asian Ties, Terrorism

AU1805104393 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 17 May 93 pp 203-206

[Interview with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified DER SPIEGEL reporter; place and date not given: "Muslims' Feelings Hurt"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Iran is trying to increase its influence in the former Soviet Central Asian republics by concluding cultural agreements, dispatching teachers and mullahs, and in particular, by giving economic aid. Is your country seeking to play the role of a regional big power?

[Velayati] It is incorrect to describe us as a regional big power that wants to dominate its neighbors. Our foreign policy is based on the principle of good relations with all our neighbors, no matter whether they are Islamic or not.

[DER SPIEGEL] But your brothers-in-faith—in Azerbaijan or Tajikistan, for instance—are certainly closer to you.

[Velayati] It is only natural for Muslims to feel associated with us. But we also have equally excellent relations with Georgia or Armenia. There are old historic relations between our countries, which were severed for a long time. We have renewed them now.

[DER SPIEGEL] Since the fall of the Soviet empire, Turkey has also tried, in a race with Iran, to be a model for the Central Asian states....

[Velayati] ... This alleged race has been invented by the West. We do not consider Turkey a competitor. Reality is totally different: We are the only country in the region to share common borders with the new republics. If Turkey wants to have closer economic relations with these countries, the trade routes necessarily cross our state territory. Of course we permit such transports. Would we do so, if we considered Turkey a rival?

[DER SPIEGEL] But the West and the Arab world are worried that Iran could export its Islamic revolution model to the Central Asian republics.

[Velayati] Islamic ideals are not goods that could be exported, and even less so by force. That holds also true for our revolution, which we do not export to other countries. Whether we like it or not, these ideals and ideas have long been taken over.

[DER SPIEGEL] You cannot deny the fact that you readily support such developments. The Hisballah fighters in southern Lebanon and Sudanese and Algerian fundamentalists boast publicly of having been armed with Iranian assistance.

[Velayati] That is not correct. We support Muslims throughout the world spiritually and morally, but we do not supply arms or military goods to other countries.

[DER SPIEGEL] What are Iranian Revolutionary Guardsmen doing in Lebanon?

[Velayati] The few who are there are only advisers.

[DER SPIEGEL] Since recently, Iran has supported the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] Palestinian underground organization, which has become Israel's most dangerous opponent in the occupied territories. Do you approve of the terrorist methods employed by the Hamas fighters?

[Velayati] They are Muslim brothers-in-faith who fight Israel's superior force with empty hands and at best with stones, and are exposed to the force used by the Zionists unarmed.

[DER SPIEGEL] Following the bomb attack at the World Trade Center in New York, the U.S. Administration claimed that Iran is the real mastermind of international terrorism. Does Iran export terror?

[Velayati] These permanent reproaches have become a boring routine. Since the beginning of our revolution in 1979, the United States has accused us time and again—in most cases, wrongly.

[DER SPIEGEL] Does this mean that some reproaches are right?

[Velayati] I am very careful in this respect, but as far as I know, yes, they are. However, the United States generally denounces every country that refuses to dance to its tune as terrorist.

[DER SPIEGEL] The relations between Iran and the West are above all strained by the death sentence on Salman Rushdie. For how long will the author of the "Satanic Verses" have to hide from Muslim death commands?

[Velayati] By his book Salman Rushdie has hurt the feelings of a billion Muslims throughout the world.

[DER SPIEGEL] Have you read the "Satanic Verses"?

[Velayati] No. Because of Rushdie, we have only had problems with one country—Britain. London must solve the problem, not us.

[DER SPIEGEL] But how?

[Velayati] The British help Rushdie directly and indirectly by permitting him to travel everywhere and besmirch Islamic values.

[DER SPIEGEL] Last week, Prime Minister John Major met with Rushdie in the House of Commons....

[Velayati] ... I have made it clear to British politicians that they provoke the Muslims by such actions. They are indeed acting against their own interests.

DPA Claims on SPIEGEL Interview Denied

LD1605125993 Tehran IRNA in English 1234 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—An informed source at the Foreign Ministry on Sunday categorically denied allegations raised by the German news agency (DPA) concerning Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's interview with German magazine 'SPIEGEL'.

The German news agency on Saturday misquoting Velayati claimed that in the interview he had "implicitly confirmed" that Iran exported terrorism.

The source reiterated that such "untrue and baseless" claims stemmed from misinterpretation of Velayati's interview.

Velayati Gulf Tour To Focus on Cooperation

NC1905063093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 19 May 93

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's research group from the "In the Margin of the News" feature]

[Text] After visiting Spain, Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati has started his tour of regional countries. On the first leg of his Persian Gulf tour, our foreign minister arrived in Saudi Arabia, where he handed a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the Saudi king and discussed bilateral relations and regional problems with the Saudi officials. After Saudi Arabia, the Iranian foreign minister will visit Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait.

The talks between the Iranian foreign minister and officials of the Persian Gulf's southern littoral states will focus on expanding bilateral and regional political-economic relations. The objective behind expanding such cooperation is to pave the necessary grounds for fulfilling regional peace, stability, and security—an objective that, when fulfilled by ensuring the collective interests of the regional countries, will allow every country in the Persian Gulf to achieve its interests.

Because of its sensitivity, the Persian Gulf area has come to be known as an area of controversy. Even though controversy has sometimes stemmed from misunderstandings among the leaders of the regional states, foreign elements have been more involved than regional countries in intensifying the controversy. Since the region's countries feel most of the negative repercussions of regional controversy, it is their efforts that are needed to free themselves from such controversy and to thwart the foreign elements that are involved in regional cooperation.

If the assessment of decades that countries safeguarding their own security and interests could be considered an obstacle to expanding cooperation toward peace and stability, today there is no place for such assessments. Interlinking the interests of regional countries has connected their security affairs in such a way that a threat against any one of them is also considered a threat against the others. Thus security, peace, and stability can be ensured only through cooperation.

In the Persian Gulf, where the countries depend largely on oil and regulate their development policies, which are based on their oil income, any single-handedness by them and any threat to the flow of the region's oil exports will harm not one country, but all of them. Political controversy threatening one regional country will immediately affect other countries.

Through contacts and talks to remove misunderstandings, the Persian Gulf countries can reach common views that will result in consolidating cooperation. Remembering that foreign elements think of their own interests rather than those of regional peace and stability, the Persian Gulf states must regard their problems with a regional outlook, which will help to consolidate cooperation. Strengthening and consolidating this cooperation can ensure regional security and, ultimately, the security of every country in this region.

Afghan Agreements 'Important Step' Toward Peace

NC1805063893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 18 May 93

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's research group from the "In the Margin of the News" feature: "Afghanistan and the New Political Agreements in Jalalabad"]

[Excerpts] Reports from Jalalabad indicate that new agreements have been reached among the leaders of Afghanistan's jehadi groups. Under the agreements, Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani will retain his post and head the defense ministry for two months and Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar will retain his post and head the interior ministry for the same period.

Before the agreements were concluded, the two sides disagreed on the Cabinet's composition. Rabbani's insistence on keeping Ahmad Shah Mas'ud as defense minister and Hekmatyar's insistence on removing him constituted the biggest conflict between them. At first, both sides seemed so insistent that the outlook for compromise was not very bright. But the political groups' determination to continue the Jalalabad talks until the conflict could be resolved strengthened the possibility of reestablishing peace in Afghanistan. This finally led to new agreements among the Afghan leaders. [passage omitted]

Political experts believe that while there can be no definite view on the success of the agreement, developments show that the Afghan political leaders realize the futility of war for achieving political objectives. They also realize that as the crisis intensifies and if they do not cooperate, they only deprive each other of the power to think and of uniformity. The ill consequences of this will ultimately be suffered by the oppressed Afghan nation.

The new agreements between Afghanistan's political leaders should be considered an important step toward peace and tranquility in Afghanistan.

India's 'Balanced Policy' Gone With Peres Visit

LD1805221093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 18 May 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The visit of Shim'on Peres, the foreign minister of the Zionist regime, to India, has met with a wide-ranging opposition from the Indian Muslims, political parties and independent circles. Reportedly, 200 of Indian Muslims who participated in the protest rally have been arrested.

There exists various views as to why the government of Narasimha Rao decided to give the opportunity to the usurper Israel to send its foreign minister to India. From all the comments and assessments made so far it so appears that the Indian Government by making a major mistake in its political calculations has put itself in a difficult position.

This notion is being cited in the propaganda campaign that technical cooperation between India and Israel may prove effective in activating India's economy, and also in expanding technical and commercial cooperation between India and Israel.

But the fact of the matter is that the main matters behind the expansion of the Indo-Israeli relations are not economic in nature, as the presence of a high-ranking military team among the big group accompanying Shimon Peres confirms such a view.

There is mooted this probability that India and Israel may enjoy common views on certain issues. The support of the idea and the promotion of Hindu-Israeli ties by the Bharatiya Janata Party, BJP, the biggest party opposed to the Rao government, throws considerable light on the fact that the Indian Government which is controlled by the Congress Party, while forging ties with the Zionist regime, is not only a loser at the regional level and in the Islamic world, but is also embarking on a move which will be advantageous to its party rivals domestically. And it is very likely that this move may tilt the balance of power within the country in favor of the rightist BJP.

Of course, one should keep in mind that the Kashmiri issue has acted as an encouraging factor for the Indian Government in the expansion of ties with Israel. There, however, exists this wishful thinking among certain leaders of the Indian Government that Israel possesses the first-hand experience in crushing the revolutionary Palestinians, and that the same experience may be used more effectively in bringing the critical situation in Kashmir under control.

However, India hopes that Israel, by virtue of the influence it has in America and Europe will play a positive role in advancing New Delhi's objectives aimed at having close links with America in the wake of the collapse of the former Soviet Union, an ally of India.

It seems that more realistic politicians in India are worried that closeness between India and Israel will intensify political and religious tensions inside India, threatening its political stability. They also argue that Israel has its own observation in seeking closeness with India without attaching any significance to New Delhi's national interests.

Therefore, the most immediate expectation which can be had from the visit of Shimon Peres to India is the intensification of regional disputes and rivaly between India and Pakistan, while America and Israel, by focussing on Islamabad's nuclear facilities, will be able to intensify the ciris of distrust between these two states. Pakistan cannot ignore any military cooperation between Israel and India and naturally would attempt to counter their joint projects.

At any rate, there exists ambiguity as to how the Indian Government can ignore its ties with 1 billion Muslims of the world and also with more than 50 Islamic states and, instead, establish ties with a detested, isolated and aggressor regime. Even though any response to such an ambiguous question lies in global events, one should have no doubt that India will be the loser and has deliberately or unknowingly inflicted irreparable losses upon its regional and international image among the Muslim nations.

However, there already exists some serious doubts concerning the issue as to whether the Indian Government, by putting itself at the mercy of America and Israel, will attain its expected objectives. But there is not the least doubt in the fact that New Delhi will be on the losing side in abandoning its balanced policy of the past times that had brought international reputation to it.

Majles Official Airs Views With German FDP Members

LD1805162293 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Mr. Rohani, deputy speaker of the Islamic Majles and secretary of the National Security Council, met two visiting executive members of Germany's Free Democratic

Party's [FDP] parliamentary group today. In the course of this meeting, Mr. Rohani stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran is interested in establishing ties in all fields with European countries. He also announced our country's readiness to cooperate with international organizations within the framework of the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Rohani expressed concern regarding the fate of Iranians and Muslims in Europe, and added: We are prepared to cooperate with Europe in respecting human rights in those countries where there is no democracy at all. He also declared Iran's readiness to combat international terrorism.

During the meeting one of the executive members of Germany's FDP stressed the importance of Iran's political, economic, and social status in the region and of its ties with Germany. He said that one cannot exonerate all those countries that call the Islamic Republic of Iran into question.

After the meeting, the German parliamentary delegation discussed the fate of women in the Islamic Republic of Iran with two women deputies of the Islamic Majles. The ladies, Salimi and Fayyazbakhsh, offered the necessary explanations.

Support for Palestinians Against Israel Noted

NC1405143293 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY EDITION in English 6 May 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Mideast Realities and Zionist Threats"]

[Text] To the Islamic world the evidence is convincing that the Zionist regime is in the pursuit of enlarging the area of conflict in the Middle East. The reality is that Israel has survived on the planning of conflicts and extension of wars since 1948. Almost always in coordination with Washington, such a strategy of the al- Quds [Jerusalem] occupying regime has kept the volatile region on the brink of collapse but has served Israel to a significant extent.

Its traditional use of the 'first strike' had in the past more or less guaranteed success to Israel's military ventures. As a result of that policy and the lack of a strong Islamic and Arab response to Zionist atrocities, the illegitimate regime occupied Arab territories in 1956, 1967 and 1982. It then used the 'victory' as a leverage in extracting concessions from the Arab regimes to 'ease tension' in the Middle East and/or settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The end result of Tel Aviv's lawlessness and criminal behavior in the Gaza, West Bank and Jerusalem is there for everybody to see. If its 'tough' stance consolidated its power in the occupied regions in the 1980s, that is no more the case now. The Palestinian Intifadah notwithstanding, militancy and guerrilla warfare of the Muslim resistance movements has made the Zionists uneasy and desperate. The so-called peace talks have reached a critical stage while the Arab peoples are aware that their leaders are giving more and getting nothing by attending the U.S.-sponsored negotiations.

Now its almost a year that Zionist politicians, military strategists and their media are speculating about the "threat of Iran". A very recent story in the U.S. press went on to say that "in one scenario, Israel would use its considerable military power to attack Iran alone. In another, Israel would use its considerable political and media power to persuade the U.S. to do the job." One Zionist parliamentarian this week threatened to "act alone" to stop Iran from becoming a nuclear power.

It seems that the Zionist rulers and their allies would be doing a favor to themselves if they pay more attention to the views of sociologists and human rights observers rather than waste time, money and energy on reflecting the views of military strategists or political analysts. It is indeed foolish to contemplate that harming the Islamic Republic militarily will cut off the alliance between Iran and the Palestinian Liberation struggle.

The free world public opinion is aware that the U.S.-Israeli propaganda campaign against Iran is built on one "important" premise—pressure Tehran to slacken its opposition to the Mideast "peace process" and forget the idea of supporting Islamic movements struggling for independence and liberation from occupation in Palestine.

Many in the Arab world and the Western hemisphere have finally come to admit that common ideology and Islamic teachings link the Muslim resistance groups in Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia...to Islamic Iran. The people and government of Iran were, are and will continue to be the allies of all those who demand their legitimate rights and reject foreign influence in their internal affairs.

Sooner or later the usurper regime in occupied Palestine will also come to the conclusion that military power cannot neutralize or reverse trends that are born out of genuine faith and belief in righteousness. The full-fledged Muslim uprising is evidence that so far the Zionist entity has failed to get what it wants by force and intimidation. General Yitzhaq Rabin and his aides should look at the region's recent developments before getting themselves involved in a new venture. Islamic Iran has defended itself and its allies in the past and will do so in the future. History of the Islamic Republic attests to the fact that intimidation and threats are not the way to deal with Iran. So far, it is Israeli aggression that has fostered radicalism and militancy in Palestine and its neighborhood not seen before. Israel cannot afford to ignore developments that have already forced it to agree to return territories under its brutal occupation.

President on Bringing Scientists Back From West

LD1705114893 Tehran IRNA in English 1104 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA—The Muslim world, enjoying talented manpower and financial and spiritual facilities, can hold access to advanced and modern technology, said President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his speech which opened the International Congress for the Advancement of Sciences and Technology in the Islamic World, here Monday.

The three-day congress, chaired by the president, was sponsored by Iran's Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, Tehran University, Organization of Scientific and Academic Research and Third World Academy of Sciences.

The president underlined advancement of sciences technology as an essential need in the country and called for cooperation of all Muslim states in this respect.

He noted that although greatest natural resources in the world belonged to 50 Muslim countries, unfortunately, hegemonist powers would meet the cost of their research plans and technological progress through the same resources.

He said that the main objective of the congress should be the study of the reasons behind the brain drain of talented manpowers in Muslim countries and ways to prepare the ground for their return home.

Elsewhere in his speech, the president added that many of such talented individuals were enthusiastic to return back to their homeland and would do so if proper conditions were prepared for them.

He pointed to the 800,000-plus university students in Iran and said that university and research centers would be increased rapidly in future.

The president stated that a growth rate of 50 percent had been predicted for such centers in the First Development Plan and the share in the second plan, to be implemented in 1994, would be even more.

Minister of Culture and Higher Education Mostafa Mo'in was another speaker who said that the congress had provided a good opportunity for scholars, scientists and researchers to deal with vitally important issues facing the Muslim world.

He underlined Islam's viewpoints concerning sciences and technology and noted that arrogant powers, especially in the contemporary era, intended to employ sciences and techology as means to expand their hegemony and destroy advantages of Muslim communities.

Pointing to scientific and technological problems facing the Muslim world, the minister regretted that talented brains in those societies were being easily obsorbed by research and educational centres of industrial societies.

He further noted that under the status quo over 97 percent of the investment made in scientific and technological area were made in developed industrial countries while Muslim states shared less than one percent out of the 3 percent left for the Third World countries.

The minister regarded victory of the Islamic revolution as a means to prepare the ground for the employment of potentials of revolutionary and committed powers.

Mo'in added that projects for the establishment and strengthening of national, regional and international organizations in educational and resaerch fields and development of data processing networks were underway with considerable speed.

Iran Shells Iraqi Kurdish Villages 10 May

NC1605060693 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] We have received a report that Iranian military forces between 1200 and 1400 [0730 and 0930 GMT] on 10 May shelled Darband-i Dula and Darband-i Dhuleh villages near Bama Mountain inside Iraq. There are no reports on the casualties and damages suffered by the defenseless people in these areas.

Once again we strongly condemn the clerical regime's plots and its attacks on border villages in Iraqi Kurdistan and call on all sides to rise in protest against these aggressive acts by the regime.

Majles Amends Presidential Election Law

LD1805102293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 May 93

[Excerpt] The bill amending the Islamic Republic of Iran's presidential election law, which had a double urgency, was approved by the deputies in today's open Majles session. According to our corespondent, the bill, which was examined and approved in the presence of the members of the Guardian Council, amends the presidential election law on two points. On the basis of these amendments, if the counting of ballots is not possible using machines in some electoral constituencies, counting will take place in accordance with the law—manually—as before. In addition, voters outside the country may, if they do not have birth certificates, vote by presenting a valid Iranian passport. [passage omitted]

Habibi Says Some Industries To Be Privatized

LD1705135393 Tehran IRNA in English 1301 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA—Part of the state industries will be turned over to the private sector, granted that the move is not in contravention with the Constitution, said First Vice- President Hasan Habibi here Sunday.

Habibi who is also the government spokesman said at the end of the cabinet ministers session yesterday that the hand over of the industries to competent non-governmental management would be carried out through negotiation, tender or stock exchange.

Competent management will be the key factor in offering the factories' shares to the non-governmental sector, he said adding that the administration's aim is efficient operation of factories and boosting production.

As for the shortage of medicine throughout the country, he said that the budget has provisioned allocation of foreign currency at the official rate of 70 rials for each dollar for defence, medical and healthcare sectors.

He added that the major portion of the amount allocated for the three sectors goes for import of medicine and, therefore, part of the present shortage of medicine will be removed soon.

On shortage of serums, he said that the required raw materials will be provided so that enough serums will be produced soon.

Tehran Magazine Office Attacked by Protestors

LD1505054793 Tehran IRNA in English 0426 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA—The office of KIAN [as received] magazine in central Tehran was attacked and damaged Friday by unknown motorcyclists who protested at its recent interview with Freedom Movement leader and ex-Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan. The interview, published in a recent issue of the magazine, reflected Bazargan's views on the evolution of the religious thought in the Islamic world and Iran, including among the educated and intellectuals. The assailants, according to eyewitnesses, chanted slogans against Bazargan and KIAN magazine. They also demanded the closure of the publication.

Nepal

Tibetans Say PRC Border Guards Let Them Cross Border

BK1705121493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1023 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Kathmandu, May 17 (AFP)—At least 62 Tibetans were arrested within a 72-hour period for for entering Nepal without visas, an immigration official said Monday.

"More than 300 Tibetans have been arrested for entering Nepal illegally in the last 10 months," the official said. "The Tibetans claim that they enter Nepal for pilgrimage, but later on they proceed to Dharmashala in India to meet their religious head, the Dalai Lama."

"Those who want to return to Tibet will be sent back but those who do not want to go back will be handed over to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees on condition that they would not stay in Nepal," the official said.

The arrested Tibetans, of various ages, reportedly told officials they found Chinese border guards willing to let them enter Nepal even though they did not have the proper visas.

According to official figures, there are some 16,000 Tibetan refugees living in Nepal.

Commission To Probe Communist Leaders' Deaths

BK1805101893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0847 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Kathmandu, May 18 (AFP)—The government has appointed a one-man inquiry commission to probe the deaths of two senior Nepalese communist leaders in a road accident Sunday, an official source said Monday.

"A one-man inquiry commission of the former supreme court Justice Prachand Raj Anil has been constituted," the source said, adding that he would investigate the accident on the Narayangadh-Chitaun Highway, 180 kilometers (111 miles) west of here which killed Madan Bhandari and Jeev Raj Ashrit.

Bhandari, 42, was general secretary of the major opposition Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) (NCP-UML), and Ashrit a Central Committee member. They died when their jeep plunged off the road into the Trisuli River.

The driver of the jeep, Amar Lama, an NCP-ULM activist, escaped death by swimming to the bank of the river, and is now hospitalised in Kathmandu.

According to NCP-UML Central Committee member Pradeep Nepal, the driver said the jeep taking the two to a party district women's conference, plunged 150 feet (46 meters) into the river after its breaks failed.

Pradeep Nepal Monday declined comment on the possibility of sabotage in the accident.

Bhandari, elected from a Kathmandu constituency, was a strong critic of the government of Girija Prasad Koirala, particularly on the question of an Indo-Nepalese water sharing accord which he had alleged was against Nepal's national interest.

The deaths of the two communist leaders, both of whom played a significant role in the popular movement against one-party rule here in 1990, was expected to create a void in the Marxist and Leninist Party, political observers here said.

Pakistan

Spokesman Views More Indian Divisions in Kashmir

BK1805152393 Hong Kong AFP in English 1212 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Islamabad, May 18 (AFP)—Pakistan accused India Tuesday of planning to enforce virtual martial law in Kashmir and warned that the move would escalate tensions in the region.

"The Indian Government has decided to hand over operational responsibilities in occupied Kashmir to the Army and is increasing the strength of its troops in the valley by sending an additional two army divisions," it said.

"These decisions are indications of India's intentions to escalate repression of Kashmiri people," a statement issued by a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Officials here have previously put the number of Indian troops and border security forces in the Indian-controlled Kashmir at around half a million men.

The statement said it was "evident" that the so-called political intitiative "advertised" by Indian leaders to resolve the crisis in Kashmir had "failed."

"Now the Indian Army is being called upon to try to impose a final solution," the spokesman said.

"The emplacement of Kashmir valley under what amounts to martial law is bound to intensify grave human rights violations in Kashmir and could also escalate tensions in the region," he added.

Thousands of people have been killed in the Indian-administered southern two thirds of Kashmir over the past four years in violence linked to a Moslem insurgency against Indian rule.

The two South Asian neighbours have fought two wars over the ownership of Kashmir since their independence from Britain in 1947.

"Pakistan calls on the World community to ask India to halt its campaign of repression and violations of human rights in Jammu and Kashmir," the official statement said.

It also urged the international community to persuade India to "reduce rather than augment the instruments of repression in the Indian-held Kashmir."

Demanding that India allow international human rights organizations to inspect conditions in Kashmir, the statement renewed Pakistan's offer for bilateral talks on the Kashmir tangle.

"The world community should bring political and moral pressure to bear on India so that it responds positively to Pakistan's repeated offers to open a dialogue with a view to defusing tensions and promoting a peaceful settlement of Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with international and bilateral commitments."

Answering questions after reading out the statement, the spokesman welcomed the U.S. interest in promoting peace and security in the region.

He said the United States recognized Kashmir as a dispute and indicated an "even-handed" approach in its relations with India and Pakistan.

Referring to the talks held here by U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State John Malott over the weekend, the spokesman described the wide-ranging discussions as "most satisfactory and productive."

Malott later travelled to New Delhi where he met with Indian officials.

While here, Malott reportedly said the U.S. could act as a catlyst for talks between the two countries within the framework of their bilateral 1972 Simla pact to resolve all outstanding issues.

Khan Sees Kashmir Solution as Necessary for Peace

BK1805143893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has said a permanent peace in South Asia depends on solution of the Kashmir issue. He was addressing a ceremony to install the chief of the army staff, General Abdul Waheed, as colonel-in-chief of the Frontier Force Regiment [FFR] in Abbotabad today. The prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, was also present on the occasion.

The president said the Kashmir dispute is the key issue in the region and its just solution would pave the way for removal of other irritants. He expressed the hope that sooner or later India would realize that its policies were counterproductive and it would adopt a prudent way to positively respond to Pakistan's continued efforts for peace, goodwill, and cooperation in South Asia.

Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan said great nations never forget their heroes, and if we are proud of the valor and sacrifice of the defenders of our frontiers, it does not mean we have a military mind. It proves that we consider strong defense as the first condition for peace. He said unfortunately our strong desire for peace and amity is not enough to deter the enemy from its aggressive designs and adventurism. For this, it is necessary to make the enemy realize that his aggression would spell disaster for him. By acquiring an invincible defense capability alone can we compel the enemy to adopt a respectful and equitable attitude. The president said mutual respect, equality, and justice are essential conditions for establishment of a lasting peace.

Earlier, the president and the prime minister installed the chief of army staff, General Abdul Waheed, as colonel commandant [as heard] of the FFR. In his brief speech on the occasion, the chief of army staff expressed the hope that the FFR would maintain its valiant tradition for the defense of the country.

Spokesman on Kashmir Issue, Ties With U.S.

BK1905032393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 May 93

[Text] Pakistan has urged the international community to exert presssure on India to stop Indian atrocities on the Kashmiri people. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad yesterday that the decision taken by India to move two Army divisions to occupied Kashmir reflects its intention to intensify the program of atrocities there. The spokesman said this will further vitiate the human rights situation in occupied Kashmir and will step up tension in South Asia. He urged the international community to exert moral and political pressure on India to give a positive response to Pakistan's repeated offer of talks to reduce tension and find a peaceful solution to the Kashmir dispute on a bilateral basis and as per its international commitments.

In reply to a question, the spokesman said the main objective of the consultations between Pakistan and the United States is to promote peace and security in South Asia. The spokesman said during the visit of John Malott, Acting Chief of the U.S. State Department's South Asian Bureau [title as heard], that all aspects of Pakistan-U.S. ties were discussed. He said both countries held discussions on U.S. policy on South Asia, nuclear non-proliferation, and security in South Asia.

Spokesman on Bosnia, U.S. Official's Visit, Kashmir

BK1805151893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Pakistan has called for an emergency meeting of the permanent representatives of Islamic countries in New York in view of the rejection of the international peace plan by Bosnian Serbs. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan's delegation in New York has been asked to initiate consultations for presentation of a resolution to the Security Council, which is due to meet on Friday. The resolution would seek to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia and recognize its right to individual and collective self-defense.

The spokesman described Pakistan's talks with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Mr. John Malott as productive and satisfactory.

Reacting to the Indian Government's decision to hand over the operational responsibility in occupied Jammu and Kashmir to the Indian Army, the spokesman said it is evident that the so-called political initiative which was advertised by certain Indian leaders has failed and that now the Indian Army has been called upon to try and impose a final solution. He said Pakistan, therefore, calls upon the world community to ask India to halt its campaign of repression and violation of human rights.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1212 GMT on 18 May in a similar report adds: "Pakistan accused India Tuesday of planning to enforce virtual martial law in Kashmir and warned that the move would escalate tensions in the region. 'The Indian Government has decided to hand over operational responsibilities in occupied Kashmir to the army and is increasing the strength of its troops in the valley by sending an additional two army divisions,' it said. 'These decisions are indications of India's intentions to escalate repression of Kashmiri people,' a statement issued by a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Officials here have previously put the number of Indian troops and border security forces in the Indian-controlled Kashmir at around half a million men. The statement said it was 'evident' that the so-called political intitiative 'advertised' by Indian leaders to resolve the crisis in Kashmir had 'failed.' 'Now the Indian Army is being called upon to try to impose a final solution,' the spokesman said. 'The emplacement of Kashmir valley under what amounts to martial law is bound to intensify grave human rights violations in Kashmir and could also escalate tensions in the region,' he added. Thousands of people have been killed in the Indian-administered southern two thirds of Kashmir over the past four years in violence linked to a Moslem insurgency against Indian rule. The two South Asian neighbours have fought two wars over the ownership of Kashmir since their independence from Britain in 1947. 'Pakistan calls on the World community to ask India to halt its campaign of repression and violations of human rights in Jammu and Kashmir,' the official statement said. It also urged the international community to persuade India to 'reduce rather than augment the instruments of repression in the Indian-held Kashmir.' Demanding that India allow international human rights organizations to inspect conditions in Kashmir, the statement renewed Pakistan's offer for bilateral talks on the Kashmir tangle. 'The world community should bring political and moral pressure to bear on India so that it responds positively to Pakistan's repeated offers to open a dialogue with a view to defusing tensions and promoting a peaceful settlement of Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with international and bilateral commitments.' Answering questions after reading out the statement, the spokesman welcomed the U.S. interest in promoting peace and security in the region. He said the United States recognized Kashmir as a dispute and indicated an 'even-handed' approach in its relations with India and Pakistan. Referring to the talks held here by U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State John Malott over the weekend, the spokesman described the wide-ranging discussions as 'most satisfactory and productive.' Malott later travelled to New Delhi where he met with Indian officials. While here, Malott reportedly said the U.S. could act as a catlyst for talks between the two countries within the framework of their bilateral 1972 Simla pact to resolve all outstanding issues."]

Mazari on Deportation of Arabs

BK1805113193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 18 May 93 p 1, 10

[By Anwar Iqbal]

[Text] Islamabad—Caretaker Prime Minister Balakh Sher Mazari said Monday Pakistan will not throw out the Arab nationals wanted in terrorism charges by their countries of origin but was prepared to hand them over to a third country.

"The United States and other countries brought them here, supplied weapons, and helped train then when there was a war in Afghanistan. Now the whole world wants us to throw them out. This is unfair," said Mazari while speaking to a group of foreign correspondents.

He was asked to comment on requests by some Arab countries asking Pakistan to hand over some of their nationals who, they said, were involved in terrorist activities.

"If there are criminal charges against them we are prepared to hand them over, but it is unfair to phone us and asks us to read the list of Arab nationals living here and then say send this or send that," said Mazari.

He said he was even prepared to deport all Arab nationals living here "but not to their countries of origin because if they are punished without trial then again Pakistan will be held responsible."

"We are ready to send them to the United States or to any other third country, we are also prepared to hand then over to the Interpol", said Mazari.

He said it was wrong to condemn Pakistan for the presence of those Arab nationals, here "we did not invite them. They were welcomed as heroes when they were fighting the

communists. They were doing a very good job. They were patriots. But now, all of a sudden, they have become terrorists."

He said Pakistan was a victim not a villian, "once these people lose their interests in their countries, they are going to turn against us because they live next door in Afghanistan."

Mazari said his government has already set May 31 for all such Arab nationals to leave Pakistan. "We will ask them, please go away but if they don't, we will put them all in buses and dump them in the American Embassy."

He said Pakistan also felt slightly hurt with the United States over the Kashmir and nuclear issues. "For a very long time we were close friends. We were asked to good jobs and dirty jobs in Afghanistan. But now it has changed."

"We only ask them to have the same yard-stick for us and India. One thing can't be good for us and bad for India. If nuclear non- proliferation is good for us, it is also good for India."

Replying to a question Mazari said he had written to the Chief of Army Staff [COAS] about the Army's role in the forthcoming elections. The Army, he said, would have a supervisory role and hot conduct the elections as demanded by PPP [Pakistan People's Party]. But it would have more powers than it did in the previous elections. Army officers on election duty would be able to take action if they saw rigging for irregularities.

He said there were 34 thousand polling stations in the country and the government could not depute half of the army on election duty. "We have asked the COAS, to look into the matter and are waiting for his response."

He said the provincial assemblies were working according to the constitution but those who believed otherwise, they should ask the President who had the power to dissolve them.

Asked if he spoke to his Indian counterpart about bilateral problems he said: "How could I, when he did not even have the courtesy to phone and congratulate me. I can't back up the phone and say hi, how are you?"

He said his govt had not ordered a witch-hunt against the deposed Sharif govt. "We are only looking at glaring examples of corruption and misappropriation. If we find any we will take the matter to the court."

He said his govt had not decided yet whether it would make a full annual budget or just a supplementary budget "but whatever decision we take it will be in interest of Pakistan." He said his govt was not going to make laws for awarding death penalty for smuggling of narcotics because it was only a caretaker govt but hoped that a new govt would.

Malott's Visit To 'Surely Improve' Ties

BK1805115793 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 18 May 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Malott's Visit and After"]

[Text] American Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Mr John Malott, who is the current Director of the South Asia desk of the US State Deparment has completed his visit to Pakisan. During his stay he held discussions with Secretary General Foreign Affairs M. Akram Zaki and Foreign Secretary Shahryar Khan and called on the Prime Minister, Mir Balakh Sher Mazari. Mr. Mazari conveyed to him Pakistan's desire to further strengthen and consolidate the four decades-old friendly ties with the [words indistinct] the policy of the Clinton administration to strengthen relations with Pakistan.

Prior to his present visit to the region, Mr. John Malott had made a statement on April 28, 1993 before the Congressional Sub- Committee for Asia and Pacific saying that there should be an "even- handed" approach in dealing with Pakistan and India. This denotes a welcome shift in US policy towards Pakistan's nuclear programme. Since, instead of singling out Pakistan for pressuring to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), the focus now is on Pakistan and India to adopt a regional approach. This is what Pakistan has envisaged all along. Mr. Malott has also indicated that the United States is interested in Pakistan and India negotiating their bilateral issues and taking steps for confidence building measures. He accepted that Kashmir was one of the questions outstanding between the two countries but said his country could not play the role of a mediator. The US government can act only as a "facilitator and catalyst." It is evident that the United States wants to encourage the countries of the region to take positive steps to defuse tensions and improve the prospects of peace and security. It is hoped the core issue of Kashmir which is hampering good relations between Pakistan and India and happens to be the main cause of tension in the region will also come under the "even- handed" policy of the United States. It devolves upon the superpower to take effective steps to have it settled in accordance with the United Nations resolutions. Once that is done it would not only lead to good neighbourly relations between Pakistan and India but also help promote regional peace and stability. During the wide ranging talks with Mr. Malott, Pakistan has clearly spelled out the problems it is faced with and presented its views on nuclear non- proliferation and regional security. Mr. Malott's statement in Islamabad that Pakistan is not on any formal watch-list of terrorist states will surely improve the atmospherics between the two countries and help things move in the right direction.

Party Leader Calls Malott Remarks 'Interference'

BK1805140993 Lahore PAKISTAN in Urdu 17 May 93 pp 6, 8

[Text] Karachi (Bureau report)—Professor Ghafoor Ahmed, the deputy chief of the Jamaat-i-Islami-i-Pakistan, strongly criticized the recent news conference of John

Malott, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state, and termed it an interference in Pakistan's internal affairs and contravention of diplomatic norms. Addressing a news conference at the Nur-i-Haq organization in Karachi on 16 May, he said that John Malott, by his remarks at the news conference that the United States is satisfied with the retirement of the (?junior) general in the Army, has tried to imply as if appointments in the Pakistani Army are made according to U.S. instructions. He said that such an attitude of the United States is not in keeping with it status of the only superpower. The double-standards policy is earning disrepute for the United States throughout the world. He said the Indian forces in the occupied Kashmir have [words indistinct] on the civilian population. And the United states cannot see it. On the other hand, if some people in Pakistan support the oppressed, they are branded as terrorists.

Professor Ghafoor Ahmed said that John Malott also met Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto and gave them advice. He said that I would like to tell him that this country has not been realized by either Nawaz Sharif or Benazir Bhutto. The country has been accomplished by the people of Pakistan through sacrifices. He said that the biggest hurdle in the way of normalization of Pakistan- India relations is the United States. America has been left with [words indistinct] weapons, while remaining industries have been transferred to Japan, Korea, and Taiwan et cetera. The United States is trying to ensure that the Bosnian situation does not become normal and the tension continues there. He said if some agencies are involved in politics, then we appeal to them to refrain from it as it will never yield any positive results. He said that he fears that if the situation does not improve, then incidents of murder and robbery will rise in Karachi and other cities of Sindh. Ghafoor Ahmed said that he feels that it is in the country's interest to take immediate steps to reform the youth and bring them back to the national mainstream.

Arabs Leaving Country Denied Airline Tickets

BK1805113793 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 18 May 93 p 5

[Text] Peshawar—Arab community leaders in Peshawar on Monday claimed some of the Arabs voluntarily leaving Pakistan, in the wake of the government's deadline of May 31, were being refused tickets by the Gulf Airline.

K.M. Mustafa, Secretary of the Arab Islamic Relief Agency told THE NEWS that an Algerian national who had bought ticket for the Gulf Airline was refused to board the plane at Karachi airport on the grounds that the Airline would not take Arab passengers for any destination other than their own countries.

The Algerian was supposed to leave Pakistan last Saturday. He was released from the Central Jail, Peshawar on the condition that he would leave Pakistan within a week.

The decision has put the Arab nationals leaving Pakistan in a quandary since they could not go to their countries for fear of persecution by their respective countries. Most are going to Sudan where the do not face visa restrictions.

K.M. Mustafa said the Arabs now leaving Pakistan were not rich and could hardly afford to buy tickets of other airlines hence their preference for the Gulf Airline. Meanwhile, the Peshawar High Court would resume hearing of a writ petition today (Tuesday) challenging the arrests and detention of Arabs in Peshawar.

Mazari Says Country Passing Through Difficult Phase

BK1505024893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Caretaker Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari has said his government believes in the freedom of the press and will always welcome healthy criticism from it. Addressing a meet-the-press program at the Multan Press Club last night, the prime minister said his government attaches great importance to the opinion of the press, because a free, impartial and fearless press is essential for the promotion of democracy and democratic institutions and the development of the country.

Prime Minister Mazari said the country is currently passing through a difficult phase and they will have to overcome this crisis unitedly and to put the country back on the path of development. He said his government is not against economic reforms but these reforms must be transparent and above all doubts and suspicions. He said his government wishes progress of all and not of any particular individual or section of the population. The fruits of development must percolate to the common man. The prime minister expressed his resolve to rid the society of poverty, illiteracy, and backwardness. He said he will provide a clean administration to ensure a peaceful atmosphere both before and after the elections.

Referring to the objections to the large number of ministers included in his cabinet, the prime minister said he is proud of having secured the cooperation of all major political parties, which will guarantee free and impartial elections.

Answering a question about an alliance between the Pakistan Muslim League and the Pakistan People's Party, Mazari said he would wish to see the current alliance between the two parties maintained during the elections.

About the situation along the borders, the prime minister said the country's defense is strong and there is no need for any anxiety about the defense of the borders. Pakistan is ready to meet any threat, he added.

When asked how the government will react if the Supreme Court rules in favor of the restoration of the National Assembly, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari said all will respect that verdict. He said the Engineering University in Multan will begin functioning in August. He assured the press club that the grant of 2.5 million rupees earlier announced by the former prime minister will be given to the press club soon.

Addressing a reception in Multan, the prime minister said he will do everything possible for the development of the backward and the hitherto neglected areas of the country. He also met with a number of delegations in Multan, who

apprised him of their problems. The prime minister assured them of his government's efforts to solve their problems.

Minister Defends Assembly Dissolution

BK1805114793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] In the Senate today, the chairman Mr. Wasim Sajjad, reserved his ruling on the admissibility of the privilege motions on the dissolution of the National Assembly. Winding up the discussion, the federal minister for information and broadcasting, Maulana Kausar Niazi, said the dissolution of the National Assembly enjoyed a national consensus and support from almost all major political and religious parties, alliances, groups and organizations. He said Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and his colleagues had committed grave crimes, and in these circumstances, the president was fully justified to dissolve the National Assembly.

Maulana Kausar Niazi said the deposed premier has now made the removal of the president from his office as the sole aim of his life. In the past, he always described him as his guide and patron. He has recently been planning to collect around him all opponents of the president to (?siege) the President House of which he once described himself as protector.

Maulana Kausar Niazi regretted that the former prime minister and his colleagues have chosen to attack the personality of the president. He quoted extensively from newspaper statements of the former prime minister in which he had described Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan as a great patriot, statesman, and administrator who was a source of guidance for him. Similarly, the minister said, Mian Nawaz Sharif had described dissolution of the National Assembly in 1990 as a constitutional step by the president and said the Eighth Amendment strikes a balance in the Constitution.

After the speech of the information minister, Mr. Mohammad Ali Khan, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, and Mr. Bashir Ahmad Matta rose separately on points of personal explanation and criticized the viewpoints on certain issues raised by the minister in his speech. The session was later prorogued.

Bhutto Announces PPP Program for Polls

BK1805155093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] The Pakistan People's Party [PPP] has announced a three-point program for participation in the coming general elections in the country. Explaining the program, PPP cochairperson Benazir Bhutto told newsmen in Lahore this evening that her party upholds the progressive thoughts of philosopher Iqbal and great leader Jinnah. She said that the nation should support the forces of unity instead of supporting (?various) forces. She said her party believes in a progressive system of new balance of authorities regarding equitable distribution of resources between provinces and the federation.

Sri Lanka

Ruling Party Loses Control of Key Local Councils

BK1805123893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1005 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 18 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's ruling party on Tuesday suffered its first electoral debacle in 16 years, losing a key local administrative body that governs the territory of the capital, official sources said.

President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga's United National Party (UNP) suffered a stunning defeat in the Western Provincial Council and was also set to lose control of two other politically and economically important councils.

Preliminary results showed that the UNP had been pushed to second place in Western Province while retaining its position as the largest single party in the other six councils that went to the polls Monday.

However, the UNP had no working majority in the southern and northwestern provincial councils, where the opposition jointly had a narrow margin over the government party, according to unofficial results.

A five-party alliance of former premier Sirima Bandaranaike was set to form a minority government in Western Province, official sources said. The ruling party, meanwhile, asked for a recount in the province.

The UNP previously ruled all seven councils and had won every single election since winning a landslide in the July 1977 general election.

"The UNP has lost the jewel in the crown. With the Western Province gone, it could be a serious blow to the UNP. Both the council and the central government can make life difficult for each other," a political analyst said.

Bandaranaike's People's Alliance secured a narrow margin in the Western council, while the opposition Democratic United National Front (DUNF), a breakaway group of the UNP, became a king-making third.

The DUNF of assassinated former national security minister Lalith Athulathmudali fared poorly compared to its own projections, but its minority seats were the deciding factor in Western, Southern and Northwestern councils.

With the best tourist beaches located in the southern coastline and with its developed hotel industry, the Southern Province is an economic and political plum for the opposition. Northwest, meanwhile, has lush farm lands.

The outcome of Monday's ballot, conducted under a proportional representation system, is widely expected to influence the presidential election in December 1994 and the parliamentary poll in 1995.

The tea-growing provinces of Central, Uva, and Sabaragamuva, as well as Northcentral, went to the UNP after a keenly contested campaign marred by the assassination of President Ranasinghe Premadasa and Athulathmudali.

The DUNF, formed after dissidents failed to impeach Premadasa in August 1991, was unable to break the ruling party's monolithic bloc vote.

Sri Lanka's eight provincial councils, set up in line with a 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord aimed at ending Tamil separatism, have limited autonomy to levy taxes, enact laws and raise their own provincial police units.

Among the notable defeats was that of the ruling party in the prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's home electorate of Biyagama.

The ruling party had expressed confidence in winning all seven councils. However, the UNP, which usually took more than 50 percent of the vote in previous elections, lost its hold on the electorate in most places, preliminary results showed.

Despite torrential rains in many parts of the county, an estimated 70 to 75 percent of 9.3 million eligible voters turned out to elect 366 members to the seven councils.

"The election on the whole was incident-free and comparatively peaceful," elections commissioner Chandrananda de Silva said as counting began late Monday.

Detailed results were to be announced later Tuesday.

Final Election Results Published

BK1905034493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0327 GMT 19 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 19 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's ruling United National Party (UNP) picked up a total of 187 seats but failed to win three of seven governing bodies in crucial regional polls, officials results published Wednesday showed. Final official results of Monday's elections to seven regional councils, showed the opposition Peoples' Alliance (PA) ousting the UNP in the key Western, Southern and Northwestern councils.

The Peoples' Alliance (PA) won 135 seats of which 45 came from the Western province. The UNP got 41 and asked for a recount of the ballot here, officials said.

Some 70 to 75 percent of the 9.3 million electorate turned out to vote the election described as one of the most peaceful in the past 16 years. The government, however, reimposed emergency laws Tuesday as a precaution.

Besides 366 seats contested by some 2,300 candidates in the seven provinces, there were also 14 additional bonus seats obtained from a proportional representation system under which the elections were conducted.

The PA, which will have 40 members in the Northwestern and Southern provincial assemblies, is likely to seek the support of the Democratic United National Front (DUNF), a breakaway faction of the UNP, to form a coalition.

The DUNF with 15 seats in the Northwestern and Southern councils will be called on to play the supporting role when the opposition PA seeks to govern the two economically and politically important provinces. The PA is led by former premier Sirima Bandaranaike whose daughter Chandrika is vying for the chief minister post in the western provincial government. Results Table:

Province	UNP	PA	DUNF	others
Western	41	45	17	1
Central	32	15	9	2
Uva	22	10	4	-
Sabaragamuwa	24	14	5	-
Northwestern	25	18	9	-
Northcentral	18	11	3	1
Southern	27	22	6	-

Paddy Production Increase Seen, Cut in Rice Imports

BK1505125093 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Measures are being taken to increase paddy production. minister for agricultural development and research, R.M. Dharmadasa Banda, says these measures are being implemented in order to provide the farmers the maximum benefit of the government's decision to stop rice imports. Quality seed paddy will be popularized among cultivators so a high yield can be obtained. At present, the Agricultural Department provides 150,000 bushels of seed paddy each season. The department has been instructed to take measures to increase this amount to 200,000. This extra seed paddy will be provided to farmers in the maha [major] season after production at divisional level. The government saved 4,000 million rupees annually, following its decision to ban rice, onions, chillies, and other commodities which could be produced locally. The minister points out that this money is being disbursed among the 1,870,000 farmers in the island, improving their economic condition.